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VOLUME LXV, NUMBER 19772 TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1997 • HESHVAN 11, 5758 • 11 RAJAB 1418 NIS 4.50 (Eilat NIS 3.85)

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Cabinet approves publication of appendix secrets

By JAY BUSHINSKY
The cabinet yesterday approved partial publication of the Shamgar Report's secret sections, shedding new light on links between the late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin's assassin, Yigal Amir, and General Security Service agent Avishai Rabin.
According to Channel 1, the pas-

sages to be made public, possibly by tomorrow, indicate that "Rabin said many times that Prime Minister Rabin should be murdered."
Its correspondent based this report on unnamed sources, who told him that "he said these things to Yigal Amir also."
In a telephone poll conducted by Cabinet Secretary Danny Naveh, a

majority of ministers agreed with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's proposal that the passages be made public.
The Cabinet communiqué said "the government decided to accept the recommendations of the committee appointed by the prime minister... and to allow publication of certain sections from the secret annex including those dealing

with Avishai Rabin."
Under the law governing inquiry commissions, the decision must be approved by the Knesset Security and Foreign Affairs Committee.
The ministers acted after a special committee assigned by Netanyahu to consider the advisability of publication decided in favor.
The committee was set up after former chief justice Meir

Shamgar, who headed the assassination probe, declared that there was no reason to keep the sections in question classified.
They had been permitted to read the material for the first time last Thursday. None concluded that there was evidence of a General Security Service conspiracy to kill Rabin.
But according to Reuters, one

minister charged that Rabin was responsible for fomenting much of the virulent propaganda against Rabin during the months preceding the fatal bullets fired by Amir in Tel Aviv on November 4, 1995.
It disclosed that Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein urged Netanyahu to appoint a committee to investigate the military censors' operations. He reportedly con-

tended that "in the age of electronic communications there is good reason to check the censorship's efficiency."
Edelstein also said censorship must adjust itself to reality to the extent that foreign electronic news media report live about security events, while Israeli citizens are compelled to find out about them from cable TV channels.

Woodward set free after judge changes verdict, cuts sentence

CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts (AP) - A judge yesterday freed British au pair Louise Woodward after reducing her second-degree murder conviction to involuntary manslaughter for the death of an eight-month-old baby in her care.
At the sentencing hearing, in which the judge set her free after changing the sentence to the nine months she has already served in prison, Woodward addressed the judge briefly, restating her contention that "I maintain what I said at my last sentencing: that I'm innocent."
Prosecutors, however, had urged the judge to impose a sentence of 15 to 20 years. The maximum sentence for manslaughter is 20 years; there is no minimum.
"The defendant refuses to accept responsibility for killing Matthew Eappen," prosecutor Gerard Leone Jr. said. He said she showed no remorse. Defense lawyer Andrew Good responded that Woodward had the right to maintain her innocence.
The recommended sentence in Massachusetts for involuntary manslaughter is 3 1/3 to five years.
In his 16-page ruling, released earlier yesterday, the judge said the evidence compelled him to reduce the verdict.
"I believe that the circumstances in which the defendant acted were characterized by confusion, inexperience, frustration, immaturity and some anger, but not malice [in the legal sense]," the judge wrote.
"After extensive, cool, calm reflection, I am morally certain that allowing this defendant on this evidence to remain convicted on second-degree murder would be a miscarriage of justice," he wrote.
The jury's October 30 verdict - guilty of second-degree murder - stirred emotions on both sides of the Atlantic.
Defense lawyers said they would appeal the manslaughter conviction but would not comment in detail on the judge's ruling.
Matthew's parents were in seclusion and had no comment about the decision.
Matthew died February 9, five days after he was taken to a hospital. Prosecutors said evidence of a 6.3-centimeter fracture to the back of the baby's head and bleeding behind Matthew's eyes indicated the baby's head had been slammed against a hard surface.
They said Woodward hated her job because it interfered with her social life.
But the defense said the baby actually had been injured two to three weeks before February 4, pointing to testimony that a clear fluid was found in the baby's skull.
Several jurors had said they wished they could have considered manslaughter as an option. They had been barred from doing so by an "all or nothing" defense strategy of giving jurors only the options of murder or acquittal.
Under Massachusetts law, Zobel had four options in deciding the appeal of the conviction: Let the verdict stand; dismiss the conviction; order a new trial; or reduce the finding to manslaughter.
Manslaughter, not murder with a mandatory life sentence, best fits the scenario suggested by the evidence, the judge wrote: a young, inexperienced teen struggling with the demands of baby care. A finding of malice under the second-degree murder count meant concluding the defendant committed a deliberate act that a reasonable person would have known was likely to cause death.
"Frustrated by her inability to quiet the crying child, she was 'a little rough with him,' under circumstances where another, perhaps wiser, person would have sought to restrain the physical impulse," he wrote. "The roughness was sufficient to start [or re-start] a bleeding that escalated fatally."

Likud delegates mutiny

Leaders lose control of convention

By SARAH HONIG
The Likud leadership, from Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu to leading MKs, was humiliated yesterday by an insurrection of central committee members at the first working day of the Likud convention yesterday at Tel Aviv's fairgrounds.
Netanyahu and others among the party's elite were repeatedly shouted down and overruled by the rowdy delegates. Unable to control the proceedings, the leadership saw its candidate for convention presidium chairman, Health Minister Yehoshua Matza, drop out of the race.
Defying the leadership, the central committee made clear its determination to scrap the primaries for the party's Knesset list and to retain power over choice of the party's candidates in its own hands.
The peak of the 2,750 delegates' insurrection came when Netanyahu appealed to the delegates not to force a vote on the primaries at the present convention session.
The crowd, which seconds before had cheered a rerun of his address the previous night at the convention's opening ceremony, rose to its feet in protest. The "Bibi, Bibi" chants changed to a reverberating "No, no."
Netanyahu had started out as the audience's darling. He urged the delegates to join his peace-making overture to the Left.
"I repeat my call from the heart - no more blaming, invective and mutual recriminations. It is time to heal the rift and offer the hand of friendship." The delegates cheered.
Thunderous applause and a standing ovation followed Netanyahu's proclamation that "the Golan is territory essential for Israel's security." He had not mentioned the Golan Heights the previous night, drawing protests from the area's residents yesterday.
But as Netanyahu approached the issue of primaries, the mood changed.
"We must approach party issues coolly and consider all possible



Likud convention delegates shout and wave their hands as they interrupt Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu during his speech to the party convention at the Tel Aviv Fairgrounds yesterday. (Tom O'Sullivan/Israel 93)

ramifications," he said. "Haste is dangerous. We must have extra time."
But Netanyahu found it hard to continue the sentence. The delegates jeered, whistled and booed. For a long period they could not be calmed. It was a rare reception for a prime minister's request at a Likud forum and the first such reaction for Netanyahu.
The shock was not mitigated by later claims from delegates that the jeers and boos were reserved for Communications Minister Limor Livnat, who at that minute had made her entrance.
The same treatment was accorded Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, Science Minister Michael Eitan and even Netanyahu's nemesis MK Ze'ev Begin, who rose in an unexpected attempt to defend putting the primaries matter off to a later convention sitting in January or February.
Eitan chided the delegates: "I am ashamed of the way you receive the prime minister. You must let all sides express themselves. We must allow for a debate."
Begin told the delegates he was no supporter of the primaries sys-

tem, "but what's the rush? Why push and pressure? I join the prime minister's call for a time out." At that point Begin was also shouted down.
Earlier in the day, the Likud ministers met at Netanyahu's Tel Aviv office and their long consultations in a vain attempt to come up with a face-saving formula delayed the formal opening of the proceedings.
But their first failure was already apparent before they reached the fairgrounds. Matza declined to stand against Yisrael Katz, who ran on behalf of the anti-primaries forces.
Netanyahu turned down suggestions that he run for chairman instead of Matza or make the vote one of confidence in him. Ariel Sharon said that there is no going back from the primaries system.
Katz drew stormy applause when he took the podium and addressed the ministers on the sitting there.
"All we want is for you to hear us out. These delegates are the Likud. They put you where you are today. Don't prevent them from making decisions as they see fit."

Delegate rebellion spells anarchy for Likud

Things could not have gone more wrong for Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu than they did yesterday.
Even if the scheme to scrap the primaries had at some point begun at his initiative, even if - as some Likud ministers alleged - he was playing a double game, yesterday's events were out of his control. The genie was out of the bottle and Netanyahu worked with visible desperation to try and push it back in.
Likud conventions have always been riveting political productions, but yesterday's spectacle was unprecedented. It appeared that the party leadership was facing no less than a full-scale grass-roots rebellion, which it could not quell.
The ministers were holed up in a room, and their only recourse was to beg for mercy. Even Netanyahu was received with a vociferous "No, no" Netanyahu than they did yesterday.
When he dared user what the nearly 3,000 convention delegates did not want to hear, he was clear the party leadership was up against what can be called a class conflict.
The Likud's 300 members were rising up against their commanders.
"We are the ones who put you in power," Yisrael Katz, the convention's new presidium chairman, kept mercilessly hammering home. "We are the ones who carried the Likud on our backs, and we are mature and sensible enough to make the right decision. We demand to be heard."
See ANARCHY, Page 8

MKs to vote on 18.9% arnona hike

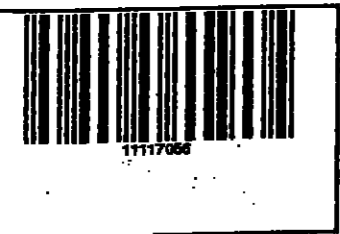
By DAVID HARRIS
The Knesset Finance Committee is scheduled today to vote on a proposal to raise municipal property taxes (arnona) next year by 18.9 percent.
The request was presented to MKs yesterday by the Interior and Finance ministries as part of the economic arrangements bill which accompanies the proposed 1998 budget.
"If this is approved we will become the raiser of taxes for the government," said Union of Local Authorities in Israel spokesman Hillik Goldstein. Mayors will be loathe to increase taxes by such a large percentage in an election year, added Goldstein.
Two weeks ago the ministries proposed an increase of 8.9%, based on the consumer price index through September. However, yesterday MKs were asked to approve an additional 10% increase.
At present the minimum annual payment is NIS 19.40 per square

US seeks tighter sanctions against Iraq

WASHINGTON - The United States said yesterday it would ask the UN Security Council to tighten sanctions on Iraq before resorting to military action.
"We will be seeking a strong resolution... a resolution that will condemn his [President Saddam Hussein's] actions, demand that he reverse course and take up where the security council left off... [and impose] the travel restrictions that were considered several weeks ago," State Department spokesman James Rubin told reporters.
Rubin spoke after Iraq raised the stakes in its confrontation with the UN, saying it would no longer consider US-maned U-2 flights part of the inspection program and would act against them.
Vice President Al Gore said that US spy planes would continue flying over Iraq. He spoke cautiously about chances of a military confrontation.
"We are going to continue activities such as the U-2 flights," Gore told a Pentagon news confer-

US seeks tighter sanctions against Iraq

ence. "We're going to insist... that Iraq observe the UN resolutions in every particular."
Iraq's letter from its foreign minister to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, followed confirmation that an American spy plane flew over Iraq early yesterday despite Iraqi threats to shoot it down. Iraq said the plane flew out of range of its gunners.
Iraq has said that American weapons inspectors working with the UN are spies trying to prolong the sanctions imposed after the 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.
"Accordingly, if you violate the sovereignty of an independent state and a founding member of the United Nations," al-Sabah said. "On the basis of the foregoing, it is no longer one of the UN means of the alleged inspection, both in form and name."
"We will do whatever we can to prevent American aircraft violating our skies pursuant to this description in a manner that preserves Iraq's sovereignty and security."
The letter came before Annan met with Iraqi Deputy Foreign Minister Tarik Aziz to discuss the crisis.
Meanwhile, commenting on a meeting Aziz had with French Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine in Paris, White House spokesman Mike McCurry said: "I believe a very unambiguous message was sent to the Iraqi government, of positive developments."
Meeting in Brussels, European Union foreign ministers urged Iraq to comply with inspections, but also to explain what they would do if they refused.
"I think that it's not yet a question of military action," Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jacques Poos, whose country holds the EU presidency, told a news conference. (News agencies)



دکتران من الاصل

NEWS

in brief

Four dead in Gush Etzion road accident

Three Israelis and a Palestinian were killed and six others were injured yesterday in a collision near Beit Omar village in the Gush Etzion area. Witnesses said a black Volvo headed toward Kiryat Arba veered into oncoming traffic, colliding head-on with a Subaru. The Volvo plunged into a four meter dip after being struck by a cement mixer that was traveling behind the Subaru, whose driver apparently tried to swerve to avoid the collision.

The accident was about 200 meters from the site of a crash a month ago that killed six foreign workers.

A Magen David Adom ambulance overturned as it headed to the scene but nobody was injured.

Also yesterday, a man was killed when his car hit the back of a truck near Maj'ar in the North. *Lim*

PA police shoot Arab at roadblock

Palestinian policemen fired shots and wounded an Israeli Arab yesterday afternoon as he attempted to drive through a Palestinian roadblock set up at the northern entrance to Ramallah.

IDF soldiers and policemen poured into the area, fearing a terrorist attack when initial reports claimed Palestinian policemen had fired at an Israeli vehicle near Beit El.

A Magen David Adom official named the wounded man as Issam Matraia and said he suffered from a moderate gunshot wound in the knee. He was transferred to Hadassah University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem for treatment.

The Judea and Samaria police spokesman said the wounded man was a resident of Al-Bireh and had been fleeing from the Palestinian Police, who were questioning him. *Margot Dudkevitch*

PM had lunch with Mashaal Affair probers - TV

Meretz MK Ran Cohen called on Joseph Ciechanover and others on his commission investigating the Mashaal Affair to resign, after Channel 1 reported that they had lunch with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. The television also reported MK Shimron Peres testified positively on Netanyahu's behalf yesterday, saying that the bulk of responsibility in deciding on an operation rested with the Mossad. Former prime minister Yitzhak Shamir reportedly gave greater weight to the prime minister's role. Mossad head Danny Yatom, testifying for a fourth day, defended against claims that the operation was planned inadequately. *Lim*

Canadian FM arrives for one-day visit

By JAY BUSHINSKY and news agencies

Canadian Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy begins a 24-hour visit today with visits to Yad Vashem and late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin's grave, after which he will meet with Foreign Minister David Levy.

Axworthy is on a Middle East tour which began in Jordan yesterday and culminates in his participation in the economic conference at Doha, Qatar, and a stopover in Turkey.

At the top of his agenda is the recruitment of international support for and participation in the anti-land mine conference due to convene in Ottawa next month. Israel is among the countries which are unwilling to sign a treaty banning their use.

His first day here ends with an address to the Peres Center for Peace and the Palestinian Center for Regional Cooperation, which are holding a joint forum in Jerusalem's

Laromme Hotel.

The falling out between Ottawa and Jerusalem over the Mossad's use of Canadian passports in the abortive bid to assassinate Hamas political chief Khaled Mashaal in Anzman on September 25 is expected to come up during his talks with Levy, as well as in his meeting tomorrow morning with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

Meanwhile, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak met Saudi Arabia's King Fahd yesterday for what Egyptian officials said were talks focusing on the Doha conference.

Mubarak, who has described the conference as "meaningless," flew to Riyadh after a meeting in Cairo with Axworthy. Saudi Arabia has said it plans to boycott the conference in protest at Israel's approach to peacemaking. Egypt, which hosted the last Middle East and North Africa conference, has said it would go to Qatar only if there was substantial progress in peace talks.

IN CONTEXT / HERB KEINON

A straightforward battle for power

The struggle in the Likud over the primaries is essentially a battle between the party's central committee and its Knesset elite for power and control of the party.

On the surface, the resounding greeting the party committee gave Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu at the opening of the convention in Jerusalem Sunday night would belie this premise. For who, more than the prime minister, represents the party's Knesset elite?

Yet, because of the mixed signals Netanyahu has sent about the issue over the last few weeks, he is not viewed by the rank-and-file in the central committee as the force keeping the party from trashing the primaries.

"The previous system was changed because it encouraged virulent factionalism," Netanyahu told a Likud meeting last month. "But the primaries have their drawbacks as well. They blur the link to the party, to its ideals and creed, and to its government. The candidates feel the need to make headlines, and they do so by infighting." Despite these words, Netanyahu gave in to what was widely described as a "mini mutiny" of senior Likud ministers concerned that Netanyahu was behind the move to get rid of the primaries in order to exert more control over who gets on the Knesset list.

He promised ministers Ariel Sharon, Limor Livnat and Yitzhak Mordechai to do what he could to ensure that the issue does not come up at this convention.

But it has come up, and with a vengeance, and it reveals a dichotomy within the party. Livnat, Mordechai and, especially, Sharon are widely popular within the central committee. But if they are opposed to trashing the primaries, then why is the central committee seemingly so heavily in favor?

"There is a gap between the Knesset members and the party," said Shlomo Kor, a central committee member from Tel Aviv. "Because of the primaries there is no connection between the ministers and the committee. And this is because of the primaries. They don't need us, so they don't consult with us."

The idea behind the primaries was to open things up, to rid the party of the back-slapping that takes part in the back rooms and to bring the selection of the Knesset slate way out into the open. For years the selection of the party Knesset lists was variously done, both in Likud and Labor, by appointment committees or complicated systems called "septs" inside the party's central committees. All of this created a political culture of "You back me,

I'll back you" intrigue and deal-making.

It was in reaction to this culture that Labor opted for primaries in 1992, and the Likud - after seeing how the Labor primaries reinvigorated that party, and with the enthusiastic backing of Netanyahu - opted to follow suit in 1996.

"It was a mistake," said Dan Songan, a central committee member from Netanya. "I want to run for the Knesset. But I have no way of reaching 200,000 people. I don't have the money. The system as it stands now benefits those in power, and those with money. That's why they want to keep it. Those in positions of power have an advantage. They also have no need to come down to the people. We have been neutralized, and I think that explains why the government is having so much trouble. Nobody needs to consult with us."

The primaries have robbed the Likud central committee delegates of their power; removed that body of any significance.

Whereas the 2,700 members were once courted furiously by MKs and MK-wannabes, now they are simply ignored. It is only natural that the members of this body want back this power, prestige and status. Dumping the primaries will return it to them.

Barak skeptical about PM's outstretched hand

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's bid for "peace and conciliation" will be tested by his actions, not his words, opposition leader Ehud Barak said yesterday.

Barak also called on Netanyahu to apologize at a Knesset memorial being held today for incitement against Yitzhak Rabin before the assassination.

He commended Netanyahu's appeal for unity at the Likud convention Sunday night, where the prime minister said, "From this podium, I call on the leaders of the opposition to calm things down to work to unify the nation. ... I am extending a hand of peace and conciliation to all parts of this nation."

"If words were everything, then according to the prime minister we are living already in a perfect world," Barak said. "The problem is that he says one thing and does another. Only a few days ago he was whispering to Rabbi Kadour words of incitement."

He said Netanyahu could prove he was sincere by apologizing "for all the incitement which preceded Rabin's murder. That will prove his outstretched hand was not merely a gimmick."

Some Labor Knesset members threatened to walk out during Netanyahu's speech today.

"Netanyahu is not worthy of speaking in Rabin's memory. His conciliatory words aren't worth a garlic's skin. I personally will not be there," MK Hagai Meron said.

Defending Netanyahu, Science Minister Michael Eitan argued that the coffin that carried in a procession headed by Netanyahu in a demonstration before the assassination, "was not intended for Rabin, and was inscribed 'Rabin, caretaker of Zionism.'"

He added that Netanyahu did not see the rope dangled next to the coffin.

Meron, meanwhile, contended he had information that Netanyahu planned to appoint French right-winger Jacques Kopfer, who said Rabin should have been hanged in the square, as chairman of the Jewish National Fund.

Some right-wingers thought Netanyahu was not firm enough about refusing to withdraw from the West Bank or Golan Heights in exchange for peace.

MK Ze'ev Begin said that by mentioning only the Jordan Valley and east Jerusalem, Netanyahu had indicated that everything else is "up for sale."

Jihad threatens more attacks

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

The Islamic Jihad Movement threatened yesterday to carry out attacks unless Israel released Palestinian security prisoners.

The movement demanded the release of activist Arafat Alian, a Palestinian woman on a hunger strike for the past three weeks in Neve Tirza prison, protesting that she was jailed without trial under an administrative detention order.

Because of the threats, the left-wing movement "Women for Political Prisoners," called off a rally they had planned to hold on Alian's behalf outside the Defense Ministry yesterday.

The movement issued a statement declaring that while they would continue to demand that Alian either be tried or released, they could not ignore the threats to spill more blood.

Issa Karake of the Palestinian Prisoners Club said that Alian, who is reportedly ill, was in "very serious" condition.

Alian served 10 years for planning to blow up a government building in east Jerusalem in the 1980's. She was pardoned by President Ezer Weizman and released with 19 other female prisoners after the Hebron redeployment in January.

She was arrested again on October 21 while on her way from Bethlehem to Bir Zeit University to attend a ceremony marking the second anniversary of the assassination in Malta of Islamic Jihad leader Fathi Shkaki. Security forces have refused to comment on the case.

About 200 Palestinians protested against Alian's detention yesterday at Rachel's Tomb. Some threw stones at soldiers, who fired tear gas and bullets, injuring four from a nearby girls' school. Palestinian sources said.

A crowd of 4,000 Palestinians gathered at Hebron University yesterday to mark the release of Hamas leader Sheikh Ahmad Yassin.



Pro-Saddam demos
Palestinian youths chant in support of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein during a demonstration in Ramallah yesterday. Similar gatherings took place in Gaza. Demonstrators called for missiles to be fired at Tel Aviv and burned US and Israeli flags. (AP)

Public urged to learn El Al to land in Akaba

By HAIM SHAPIRO

However, Peri noted that Health Ministry cuts of funding to Eran have handicapped its functioning.

Volunteers not only take courses, at their own expense, to qualify, but they work unpaid in the evenings, on weekends and holidays.

"Because of burnout, many volunteers drop out, and if we can't afford to train a new group of people, our activities will have to be reduced in scope," Peri said.

Today, the Tel Aviv Cinematheque will host lectures and show films on depression, with guidance by psychologists, psychiatrists, journalists and artists.

One can also call Eran at 1201 or the Psagot Institute at (03) 574-1858 or look at its Web site at www.psigot.com. Eran volunteers will man booths at shopping centers and other public areas.

When El Al flight 614 from St. Petersburg to Eilat touches down today, it will be landing in Jordan, at the Akaba Airport.

The flight, carrying about 155 passengers non-stop from Russia to the Red Sea resort, will be the first actually destined for Israel to land instead at the Jordanian airport. Akaba is destined to become a joint Jordanian-Israeli airport.

According to an agreement signed September 1, passengers to Eilat will eventually be taken to a terminal next to the Akaba runway, but on the Israeli side of the border. Until the terminal is built, travelers will be bused to the Eilat Airport for border and customs controls.

Although the plane will be landing in Akaba, "as far as we're concerned it's a flight to Eilat," El Al spokesman Nachman Kleiman said yesterday.

He added that a few hours after the St. Petersburg flight, Flight 356 from Frankfurt destined for Eilat, with 90 passengers, will also land in Akaba.

They are the first of a series of test flights scheduled to land in Akaba as part of the agreement reached two months ago. The arrangement calls for Israeli guards to escort buses that bring passengers from Akaba to Eilat, while joint Israeli-Jordanian teams are to handle other ground security matters.

Hassan says proceed to final talks

By JAY BUSHINSKY

Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan called yesterday for expansion of the Middle East peace process beyond bilateral dialogue between Israelis and Palestinians. He called for negotiations with Lebanon and Syria and grappling with final-status issues "which represent Jordanian interests."

Speaking by satellite hook-up to an elite gathering in memory of slain prime minister Yitzhak Rabin in Herzliya, Hassan said, "men of wisdom never die - their legacy lives on." He described Rabin as a beacon guiding the Arab and Israeli peoples on the path to reconciliation.

Asked in a live give-and-take segment if he believes the incumbent

government of Israel is seeking peace, the prince replied: "The commitment to peace certainly is there."

Hassan praised former US secretary of state Henry Kissinger, for stating - "if *The Jerusalem Post* quoted him accurately" - that a Palestinian state was inevitable.

Three times during his speech, Hassan quoted passages from the Bible in Hebrew.

Kissinger, who was the keynote speaker at last night's gathering, attended by government leaders, senior officials, business executives and Knesset deputies, had made the remarks in a lecture Sunday night.

Recalling Rabin's role as ambassador to the US until the eve of the Yom Kippur War, Kissinger said

he tried to pinpoint the areas in which American and Israeli interests converged.

"It wasn't always easy," he went on. "When in 1973 Israel was in mortal danger and Rabin had just left Washington, the fact that the basic strategy of President Nixon and myself coincided with Israel's requests was an enormous tribute to what Rabin had achieved."

Kissinger's memoir was anticipated by Leah Rabin when she said: "I believe Henry Kissinger and Yitzhak Rabin turned President Nixon into a close friend of Israel. I don't know if we could have survived the Yom Kippur War were it not for the massive help we received from the US."

ברוך דיין האמת

We deeply mourn the passing of our dear husband, brother, father and grandfather

MANFRED (Meir) MOISE מר

The funeral was yesterday evening, Monday, November 10, 1997 (10 Heshvan, 5758).

The family is sitting shiva at home: 39/20 Sderot Ben-Zvi, Jerusalem

The family

The Faculty, Students and Research Fellows of the **SHALOM HARTMAN INSTITUTE** mourn the loss of **Sir ISAIAH BERLIN** whose writings have had a profound influence on our philosophy of inclusiveness

ידו זכרו ברוך Moshe Idel

The Knesset

On Wednesday, November 12, 1997, at 5 p.m., the Knesset will hold a special memorial session for the late Prime Minister and Minister of Defense Yitzhak Rabin, to mark the second anniversary of his assassination.

From 4 p.m. on, permanent passes will not be valid in the areas adjoining the plenum hall.

Only holders of invitations and special permits will be admitted.

The Rebecca and Joseph Meyerhoff Community Center of Kiryat Malachi WELCOMES its dear friends **Betsy and George Hess** Wishing you a pleasant stay in Israel **Moshe Nissilevitch, President**

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مكتبة الانجیل



Wachsmann remembered
Labor Party leader Ehud Barak hugs Yehuda Wachsmann, father of Nachshon Wachsmann, at a three-year remembrance for the soldier who died in an abortifacient rescue, after being kidnapped by Islamic gunmen. Barak praised the Wachsmans for the courage they showed during their ordeal and their continued work for national unity and love of Israel following the tragedy. (Kacac Hana)

B'nai B'rith conference on religion and politics: 'Tolerate the intolerant'

By HAIM SHAPIRO

It is easy to tolerate those who are tolerant towards us. The real test of tolerance is to tolerate those who are intolerant of us, Prof. Shlomo Avineri told a conference on "The Impact of Religion on Politics at the End of the Twentieth Century." Avineri argued that the concept of religion as a private affair is a secular one, derived from Protestant theology. Its relevance is limited, even in nations like the US, where such issues as abortion and prayer in public schools are on the public agenda, and it is even more limited in Israel, Avineri said. Noting that he personally would be more comfortable with a complete separation of politics and religion, he said that religion had

a public aspect which could not be avoided. Thus, he said, one arrived at a compromise such as the one that prevails here, where most buses do not operate on Shabbat, but private cars and taxis are allowed on the roads. It is a situation which makes both sides unhappy, but this is the nature of compromise, he said. "It is an abomination both from the libertarian and the religious point of view," Avineri said. The separation of church and state was easier to accept in the Christian West, where it was based on the theological separation made by St. Augustine between the realm of God and the realm of the state. In Judaism and Islam, he said, there was no such separation, with religion and state seen as one. Bishop Karl Lehman, bishop of

Mainz and president of the German Conference of Bishops, presented a survey of the relations between church and state, especially in Germany. The historical lesson, he said, was that the state could not favor one church over another, but it also could not be neutral to the ethical values of religious teachings. The conference, sponsored by the B'nai B'rith World Center and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, is to include reports on the relationship between politics and religion around the world. From a local point of view, one of the most interesting speakers will no doubt be Prof. Father George Edelstein, father of Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein. The elder Edelstein is a Russian Orthodox priest.

The defiant and the indifferent

By DAN IZENBERG

Because he chose to make his home in Elkana, one of the first settlements built across the Green Line, one would expect 33-year-old Maxim Popilov to be all in favor of conversion. There is certainly enough religious and national sentiment in his immediate surroundings to influence him in that direction. But, although Popilov is Jewish, his wife and two young children are not - and he very much does not want them to convert. "My wife and I are not in the least religious," Popilov explained. "I realize our children will not be Jewish and that this is a problem. It's a tough question. We aren't religious but are prepared to accept something of the tradition, but not Orthodoxy - and not out of religious need but only to integrate ourselves more fully." Popilov said he would consider converting in a Reform or Conservative procedure if the conversion were recognized by the state. But given a choice, he would prefer to leave things as they are. "I hope that some day it will be possible to live here without having to be Jewish," he said. Popilov, who immigrated six years ago, has many friends who, like him, aren't interested in converting. "People who live here long enough lose interest in becoming Jews," he said. "Maybe they would have converted when they first came, but not any more. It's hard to get into religion. Perhaps it would have been easier at the beginning, when everything was new."

decided to see what the country was like. She knew nothing about Israel. "I thought I was going to live in the desert," she said. Neither she nor Sasha had friends or relatives here. They decided to live in Ashkelon because Lena thought it was an old Roman town with a history, and because she had been told many young immigrants lived there. After studying Hebrew for six months, the couple tried to move to Tel Aviv but discovered that landlords demanded financial guarantees they could not provide. The next step was a kibbutz in the Golan Heights, but they left after a few months, upset by how they were treated. From there, they moved to Tiberias, where

national family. "We were discussing mixed marriages and he said he would never marry a non-Jewish girl. I asked him what he would do if there was a war and the only survivors were him and two women, one Jewish and not nice, the other not Jewish and nice. He said he would marry the Jew. And this was my best friend!" Lena decided to go back to the Ukraine because she felt she would be just as much an outsider in Australia or Canada as she was in Israel. "I came to the conclusion that people should live where they were born," she said. At one point, Sasha had taken a brief interest in Judaism. "But Israel cures people," said Lena. "We had friends from different countries who had attended Jewish schools and came with the intention of living true Jewish lives here. After a few months, they dropped everything, and most of them eventually left. "There are two extremes here. Either people are too religious or they don't care at all. There is no difference between the second type and me. They are Jewish by nationality but they are not Jewish."

wouldn't live anywhere else, even if I was offered a good job and had friends there." Lena found work and settled down to a quiet and very insulated life. "I don't follow politics and have no idea what's going on," she said. "I never watch the news, never watch television." Still, it's difficult to be completely out of touch in an emotional and incident-prone country such as this. "I know about things from other people, like when soldiers are killed, and it hurts me so much," she said. "When Rabin was assassinated, I was shocked that one Jew could kill another. And when Netanyahu won the election, I felt really guilty for the first time in my life that I hadn't voted." Still, Lena and Sasha continue to cut themselves off from the outside world. "I just bought a new stereo and listen to music all the time," she said. "We invite friends over and talk, but it's nothing exciting." Living in Israel has not influenced her religious feelings one way or the other. She is a Greek Catholic, but dislikes organized religion of any kind. "I believe that God is one," she said. "It is people who make the problems. No matter how they pray or who they pray to, there is only one God." Sometimes, she goes to meditate at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in the Old City. She prefers it to the great vaults of her home town. "I go there because it doesn't look like a church," she said. "Huge and beautiful churches like the ones in my home town make me feel small. I can't think there." Ironically, now it is Sasha who wants to return to the Ukraine or start a business that will enable them to travel between the two countries, and Lena who wants to stay put. Although Lena may be less rooted in Israel than other non-Jews, who usually belong to larger families, she likes it enough to want to stay. There are tens of thousands of immigrants like her, who are as committed or even more committed to living here. Around them, a fierce battle, which is splitting the Jewish world, is raging over the conversion issue. The outcome of this battle will, to a great degree, determine these people's future.

Absorbing the non-Jews: Last in a four-part series

Sasha found work teaching in a local high school. But by the summer of 1993, Lena had decided she wanted to go home. "I had had enough," she recalled. "It was my first time abroad and I was in a country with a completely different mentality, in small towns like Ashkelon and Tiberias. I was shocked by the behavior of the men here. In Ashkelon, when you walk down the street, you hear 20 comments in 20 minutes. People were calling me 'prostitute' for no reason. "At first I thought something was wrong with me. When it was hot, I wore t-shirts and shorts. So, I started wearing long dresses. But I soon realized that that wasn't the problem. Israeli girls would walk about with low-cut blouses and shorts and no one said a thing to them. Lena WAS also irritated by what she felt was the indiscretion of Israelis. "Everyone said to me: 'You're not Jewish. What are you doing in Israel? What are you going to do when you have kids? You must convert.' People here get too personal, too soon. They hold this kind of conversation even though they don't know you yet." The last straw was a conversation with her closest friend, an English immigrant from a tradi-

HEBREW PRESS REVIEW

By ORLY AHARONI

A call for conciliation

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu adopted a conciliatory tone on the first day of the Likud convention on Sunday "hoping it will not only change his bitter relationship with half the population on the Left, but that it will also alleviate the tense atmosphere dominating the convention," writes *Yediot Aharonot's* Aviezer Golan. He refers to the one minute of silence initiated by Netanyahu, honoring the memory of former prime minister Yitzhak Rabin and his call for unity. "A thousand speeches won't change the truth: the Likud movement carrying the prophecy of Ze'ev Jabotinsky has died," writes Eitan Haber in *Yediot*. "When the idealism ends and what is left is the race for jobs, deterioration begins." Ha'aretz's Yossi Venter states that the second day of the convention is launched in what is perceived as a war. "They [Likud MKs and ministers] know when it begins, they don't know when it will end and how many losses both sides will claim," adding that it is no longer clear who is against whom.

Massive rally

The press provides its impressions from Saturday night's rally in memory of Rabin. "It was a political rally, because the assassination was political," writes Michal Kapra in *Yediot*, adding that Kikar Rabin was filled with frustration, rage and rupture. "Optimism was stuck in traffic." Ma'ariv's Ron Miberg and Amnon Dankner claim that the massive participation in the rally was a protest against the Netanyahu government. "The crowd reflected more bitterness than yearning, more disappointment from the present than a

clinging to the past." "In the past two years, Rabin's memory has not eroded, but the time has not come yet for a massive memorial rally reaching out to all," writes Uri Orbach in *Yediot*, referring to the fact that the right was excluded from the event. Bamby Sheleg in *Ma'ariv* criticizes the rupture caused by the Left and its part in alienating other factions. "The rally was not a success; it was a demonstration of forcefulness, and peace will not come of it." "Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated as a prime minister, lamented as an opposition leader; this is not good for the opposition and bad for Israel," writes Yaron London in *Yediot*.

Diplomatic games

The press provided commentary dealing with the American policy toward Netanyahu, following US President Bill Clinton's refusal to meet with him and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's latest attacks against him in the media. Clinton's refusal to meet with Netanyahu is not an uncommon behavior among American leaders, who have done so in the past, says Ma'ariv's Moshe Zak, adding that it is not affected by Clinton's content-

ment or unhappiness with Israeli policies. "The meetings are intended to finalize agreements that were previously discussed in an operative level," but Israel has not yet reached this level with the Palestinians. Zak adds that the discussions should be postponed in order to allow the US administration to deal with more pressing issues: Iraq and Iran. Ha'aretz's Uzi Benziman refers to Albright's severe statements against Netanyahu: "The use of psychological pressure is a known means in diplomatic relations," he writes, but Netanyahu has a reputation of a leader that cannot be trusted. "Netanyahu's personality has a crucial part in the deteriorating diplomatic status of Israel that has nothing necessarily to do with his policies."


GSS strikes again

The General Security Service's involvement in the surveillance of Athina Onassis, the granddaughter of tycoon Aristotle Onassis, reverberated throughout the media. Although the Israeli agents claim their conduct was legal, writes Ma'ariv's Yosef Lapid, "we would have preferred that the names of former GSS officials not be connected to this type of scandal."

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97 The Jerusalem Post
Sceptical PM's red hand
Jihad threatens more attack
By MARGOT DUKERIN

The business of apartheid

Did South Africa's businesses profit and perpetuate apartheid or was business as a whole a reformist force that helped bring about its end?

By RICHARD MEARES

JOHANNESBURG — The capitalists who grew rich under apartheid and still control South Africa's wealth take the witness stand this week — to beg forgiveness or argue that the past was not their fault.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission, nearing the end of its quest into notorious racial oppression, will spend three days trying to trace the web of ties that bonded business and the apartheid state.

"Apartheid could not have survived without the support of the intelligentsia or the captains of the economy in our society — but what was that relationship?" said Fazal Randera, commissioner in charge of the hearings.

"Either they were voluntary believers in the system, so it didn't matter about poor labor conditions, pass laws etc, or there was a desire for change, and we want to hear about that," he said.

Trade unionists and other critics say businesses, including the mining houses and huge corporations that still dominate South Africa's economy, profited without qualms from the ample dirt-cheap labor of oppressed blacks who had few rights. The mines laid the foundations with prison-like compounds for segregated black workers and a racially-based contract labor system, says Communist Party leader Jeremy Cronin.

Businesses' liberalism of the 1980s, when they called for political change and even talked to the banned African National Congress, was a ploy to save their skins once the writing was on the wall for white-minority rule — and it has worked splendidly, the critics say.

The opposing view is that business as a whole, including the foreign corporations that did not disinvest, was a liberal reformist force that helped bring about the end of apartheid and a new era of black-majority democracy under President Nelson Mandela.

How much blame the capitalist barons will take for the past is unclear.

Leaders from institutions such as Anglo-American, Rembrandt, the Reserve Bank and the Chamber of Mines are coy about revealing what they will say this week. But submissions from two key business associations show the divergent attitudes that could emerge.

The South African Chamber of Business (Sacob) argued in its written submission ahead of the hearings that discrimination against blacks — poor education, employment restrictions and housing ghettos far from the workplace — had hurt businesses.

"South Africa's economic performance could have been better in the 1960s and significantly better in subsequent decades if apartheid had been scrapped."

Sacob, which says it is seen as representing white liberal English-speaking interests, acknowledged only that "more might have been achieved" but said its predecessor organizations had a long and proud record of opposition to apartheid.

In contrast, the Afrikaanse Handelsinstituut has apologized for supporting apartheid (denoting separate development of South Africa's racial groups) though it too denied that business had benefited from the system.

"We should have realized much earlier that moral and economic realities totally contradicted even the most positive view of that policy," its submission said.

It said apartheid's social manipulation, such as the homelands policy of shifting black populations from cities into poor "independent" lands, was cruel and wasted resources, damaging everyone including business. The apartheid government offered big subsidies for companies to follow suit and set up business in or adjacent to the homelands. The policy largely failed but for some at least it meant easy money, when the subsidy per worker outstripped the wage.

The Communist Party's Cronin said in a recent article that the spiralling violence in the 1980s, when the state tried to stamp out black unrest, had helped fill the coffers of many a manufacturer. "A large part of the private sector was deeply complicit in the miniaturization of our society under President P.W. Booth's Total Strategy," he wrote.

Economic friction heightened racial discrimination by whites in South Africa, but workers rather than bosses pushed the country towards the rigid segregation of apartheid after World War Two.

White miners had struck in 1922 to force laws to stop cheaper black workers taking their jobs, and it was white workers in marginal constituencies who clinched victory in 1948 for the hardline National Party, which ruled until 1994.

"What if" arguments still rage about where the economy would be now if majority rule had come during the Cold War decades as in neighboring states, many of whom turned to socialism.

"South Africa had its transition after 1990 and that has been fundamentally important to the economy," said researcher Brandon Hammer, of Witwatersrand University in Johannesburg.

Many whites, seeing economic failure in other parts of Africa, argue that South Africa would have gone downhill if there had been black rule in the 1970s. They predict the same will happen now. But others say the land has always been different, blessed with mineral and economic resources far richer than elsewhere.

South Africa's Oppenheims, Ruperts and other powerful families know that a blanket apology for cosy relations with the white minority governments of the past could cost them. Unions say these families' wealth is ill-gotten so they should be readier now to hand it over to apartheid's victims in the form of training, profit-sharing or transfer of assets.

Randera said the hearings would touch on the present too. "If there is some acknowledgement [of responsibility by business] we would like to hear what they have done since 1994 in terms of [redressing] the gross social inequalities that exist in our society and which were based on race," he said. (Reuters)



Lest we forget

A British soldier stands in front of a bomb disposal truck on Sunday in County Fermanagh, Northern Ireland, as security forces check the area before Remembrance Day services. It is the 10th anniversary of the Remembrance Day bomb which was claimed by the Irish Republican Army and killed 11 and injured 63. Locals have been holding peace rallies throughout the area. (AP)

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Bosnians rebuild their mosques

By TRACY WILKINSON

OMERBEGOVACA, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Sitting in the middle of the ruined homes of this northern Bosnia village is the shiny new Omerbegovaca mosque. Its white minaret reaches skyward, and a dedication plaque thanks its benefactors: Allah and the government of Saudi Arabia.

Mosques that were destroyed during a war that used religion to fuel hatred are being rebuilt in many Bosnian cities and towns, largely with money from Saudi Arabia, Malaysia and other Islamic countries.

But the Omerbegovaca mosque is the first to be built in Republika Srpska, the Serb-controlled half of Bosnia, since before fighting erupted in the former Yugoslav federation in 1991.

And it is probably the only mosque standing in all Republika Srpska.

During the war, more than 200 Moslem houses of worship were destroyed by Bosnian Serb nationalists attempting to cleanse territory of their enemies and all signs of them. A number of Serbian Orthodox and Croat Roman Catholic churches were also destroyed, but not with the systematic efficiency unleashed by Serbs against mosques.

Omerbegovaca is one of several tiny towns clustered south of the hotly disputed city of Brcko, currently controlled by the Serbs, where Moslem and Croat refugees are slowly returning home under 24-hour protection of US troops.

About 170 families have come back to Omerbegovaca. UN officials say, repairing the houses they fled in April 1992 when Bosnian Serbs bombarded their villages and seized the land. The Saudi government also has paid to restore tile roofs and replace broken windows; US, Dutch and other Western governments have paid for similar projects in villages targeted for refugee returns.

Then work began here in Omerbegovaca on the mosque, erected on the ruins of a mosque destroyed during the war. Its exterior was completed last month. Work is not finished on the interior, where green carpets, emblazoned with the royal Saudi crossed-sword emblem, cover the floors, and prayer beads hang at the ready.

"This mosque is the only evidence we have that this was ours — Moslem," said a young housewife who, with her daughter and unemployed husband, returned to Omerbegovaca five years after being expelled. Their home, with laundry hanging outside and jagged holes in the walls, sits across a dirt road from the mosque.

In Omerbegovaca's forlorn main square, which is little more than the intersection of two muddy roads, a well provides water. The village has no running water or electricity, and there are no shops because shopkeepers would have to obtain permits from Bosnian Serb authorities, and most are afraid to do so.

Humanitarian aid arrives on occasion — sheep, five to a family, were being delivered the other day. A soup kitchen offers free lunches. US troops stationed nearby routinely patrol the mosque in armored Bradley fighting vehicles and, on a recent afternoon, with a mobile battery of Stinger anti-aircraft missiles. Given its symbolism for both sides, the mosque would be a likely target.

When the mosque was inaugurated a couple of weeks ago, the amplified voice of the muezzin calling the faithful to prayer was so loud it could be heard all the way to the outskirts of Brcko, where nervous Serbs are hoping desperately to hold on to their conquered city. UN officials managed to persuade the Moslems to turn down the volume, averting a crisis — for the time being. "Fortunately, not many of the Serbs in Brcko heard it," said one international official, "or we would have had major, major trouble."

Brcko was the one territorial dispute that 1995 peace accords could not resolve; it was temporarily rewarded to the de facto Bosnian Serb rulers, but a final decision by an international arbitrator comes in March. In the meantime, the US diplomat appointed to administer the city has begun enforcing rules that require formation of a multiethnic municipal government and police force by December 31.

The task is expected to meet with resistance from Bosnian Serb hard-liners and, coupled with the return of Moslem and Croat refugees, is raising tensions in the volatile region.

Resettlement by Moslems in Omerbegovaca and other villages in Serb-held territory around Brcko is a rare success among refugee returns, which were a key element in the peace accords. It works because of NATO's close attention but is a precarious project that could go awry at any time, international officials say. Brcko's Serb authorities recently plopped down 27 Serb families in a village that was to be repopulated by its original Croat inhabitants, UN officials said, placing "biological blockers" to prevent the refugees' return.

(The Los Angeles Times)

مركز من الأخبار

The French way

Ah, France! Immortal, enchanting and infuriating! They order matters better in France, wrote Laurence Stern, the 18th century author of *Tristram Shandy*.

It remains hard to disagree, even of those French actions that raise much disapproval. It is hardly surprising that the outbreak of worker unrest in Vietnam this week is ordered on the French model - protesting farmers blocking roads in a revolt against the new world religion of free markets at any price.

Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

Meanwhile, back in the land that once ruled Indo-China, it is the truckers who again have been efficiently crippling the country with their well-organized barricading of the highways.

However, equally efficient was Prime Minister Lionel Jospin, the socialist leader facing his first showdown with the working classes. Without directly entering negotiations, he successfully pressured the truckers and employers to seal a swift agreement, and having achieved it, made it clear that the government was determined to see it enforced.

The truckers had placed around 200 blockades across France as they fought for a guaranteed minimum wage and proper calculation of the full hours they worked.

Burning the beef

But the strike lasted only five days before union-employer talks delivered a settlement, and Jospin's government looks fair, decisive and efficient at the end of it. Last year a similar strike dragged on for 12 days and made a bumbling government look even more incompetent.

Even for foreigners, those with no great knowledge of the details, the impression of French labor disputes is fixed by images of blockaded fishing ports, roads jammed with trucks or tractors, British beef or fish being immolated in some fiery sacrifice to the gods of French indignation.

Even more remarkable, if one happens to be in France during one of its periodic labor revolts, is the benign tolerance of the public for the workers' fight with all the means at their disposal so long as violence is avoided.

Of course, if the public is sometimes stuck in traffic jams, it sometimes also benefits - like last year, when we lucky tourists zipped around the Paris Metro free for a whole week. A strike somehow left the trains running, but tickers redundant and barriers open. Now that's ordering things better.

Indeed the French can be a maddening race with their quirky foreign policy, their contempt for the very same Anglo-Saxons who twice in a century had to liberate them from their Teutonic neighbor, their snooty pretensions, and impossible language.

Platonic disdain

"The French don't care what they do, so long as they pronounce it properly," George Bernard Shaw's observation seems to sum up perfectly the only nation on earth that has refined the grosser physical pleasures of eating, drinking, and dressing to a fine art, while its working and middle classes consider themselves aficionados of all things intellectual.

In anti-intellectual Britain, the Monty Python comedy team used to do hilarious skits of factory workers and cleaning ladies arguing passionately about the theories of Aristotle and Plato as they toiled away in the grime. In Paris they have philosophy cafés where ordinary folks crowd in to do just that.

As someone once quipped, there are only two differences between France and Britain: the food and the people, and France has both. France has the contrariness and the contradiction that both fascinates and repels foreigners.

Look at Paris. The name is a synonym for grace, style and beauty. The city is a state of mind - the Jerusalem of the secular and the lower.

But it remains a village at the core, and vast parts of the city are ugly, decrepit and soulless. Parisians define disdain.

Indeed, French rudeness is staple fodder for Anglo-Saxon comedians; Jay Leno gets a crack at them at least once a week. But this is a very British and American obsession which has become a universal cliché.

American pie

Other English-speakers have different experiences with the French - once they identify where they come from. Irish and Australian tourists often report an instant change of French attitude once they reveal their nationality.

The French are formal and that makes them naturally courteous to one another. Yet they are direct and do not suffer fools gladly.

Their love-hate attitude to things British and American stems from their guilt for really admiring the British, and for consuming Americana trash from movies to Big Macs. Their escape route is to blame it on cultural imperialism.

If Germany is the economic engine of the European Union, then France is its soul. Without France, Europe would be a bleak Orwellian landscape by now.

French strikers always remind us to question the accepted values of the free marketeers, finance houses and stockbrokers. Any country where ordinary working men and women are denied their proper dignity, wealth, culture and the good things of life would be a barren place indeed.

French workers will be damned if they will sacrifice their job security, pensions, hard-won privileges, health plans or overtime bonuses to mere buzz words like downsizing, globalization and digitalization.

And good for them. Before the digital revolution, there was the French revolution and wannabe modern aristos better remember it.

Saddam's massive concealment

Who hid Iraq's secret arms - and how they were caught after six years of UN inspections

By R. JEFFREY SMITH

On Sept. 25, several United Nations inspectors making a routine visit to an Iraqi food testing laboratory in Baghdad decided on a whim to go to the back door, where they encountered several men leaping down the stairway with thick briefcases. When inspectors caught up, they coaxed the men into opening their valises.

Several UN officials familiar with the confrontation say that American microbiologist Diane Seaman, who was leading the team, looked inside and was surprised to find laboratory kits for testing three deadly biological organisms that Iraq has admitted studying for possible offensive use.

The officials said inspectors also found documents linking the conduct of the tests with Iraq's Special Security Organization, thought to be one of three Iraqi groups helping to hide data about the country's illicit ballistic missile, nerve gas and germ weapons programs.

Four days of questioning in Baghdad failed to yield what the UN team considered a credible Iraqi explanation, according to the officials, so the inspectors decided to push the Iraqi government. They set out in a convoy at night to conduct a sudden search of the organization's headquarters, where Qusay Hussein, the son of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, has an office.

Iraqi soldiers blocked their travel to the site and invoked a claim of presidential security to declare the area off-limits to foreigners.

While Iraq depicted its action as a legitimate exercise of its sovereign rights, the UN commission saw it as another example of the country's desperate effort to hide key details of scientific research that could be related to its weapons of mass destruction.

Such clashes had been occurring with growing frequency, even before Iraq announced last week that it would bar all inspections that included Americans. Its declaration provoked a clash with the Security Council that could lead to further UN sanctions against Iraq after the issue is debated on Monday.

In just the past six months alone, at least 10 short-notice inspections have been completely blocked, according to an Oct. 11 report by the commission to the UN Security Council. Over the past seven years, according to a tally kept by US officials in Washington, as many as half of all these special inspections have been totally or partially obstructed, amounting to more than 100 tense showdowns.

The Iraqi government maintains that the United Nations has been seeking to probe increasingly sensitive government sites at the behest of the CIA, which it alleges is collecting data on the leadership so it can make a new attempt to topple Saddam. But UN officials say the allegation is nonsense, and that Iraq is at worst trying to keep the commission from verifying that it still has a handful of missiles capable of flying more than 370 miles; a stockpile of VX gas stored in binary munitions, and sufficient dried spores of anthrax to kill tens of millions of people.



Iraqis demonstrate in Baghdad last weekend to protest the American domination of the UN and to show solidarity with their leadership's decision to expel the American weapons inspectors.

At a minimum, the UN officials say, Baghdad is using the sensitive sites to protect documents and equipment that could be used to make these weapons if the UN's inspections are ever cut back.

They add that either aim constitutes a violation of the cease-fire resolution Iraq signed at the end of the 1991 Persian Gulf War, which gave the commission's inspectors carte blanche to go anywhere inside Iraq and to destroy any equipment or facilities that proves are associated with such weaponry.

Iraq first admitted in 1995 to having created a program of deliberate concealment to hide certain nuclear, germ and poison gas programs shortly after the war. But it claims that it stopped this program in 1995, after the defection to Jordan of a senior Iraqi official, Hussein Kamal, the president's son-in-law. "We are 100 percent confident that we have done all our commitments," Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz said at a news conference Friday.

UN officials say that even if the latest crisis over its inspections is resolved, this Iraqi system is likely to spawn continuing friction with the 15-member Security Council because Iraq's residual weapons capabilities are being protected by the same security apparatus that Iraq's leadership uses to protect itself - in short, those military forces and intelligence services Saddam considers the most competent, trustworthy and immune to outside scrutiny.

"What Iraq has been doing, and the organizations it has been using, almost invites us to want to inspect and investigate sites which are very close to the leadership. If you use the Special Security Organization to hide this stuff and they live in Saddam's neighborhood, then that's where we are going to come," said Ewen Buchanan, the commission's spokesman.

The concealment efforts are allegedly orchestrated by Abid Hamid Makmoud, a

personal aide to Saddam, the officials said. They maintain that he chairs meetings of a concealment coordinating committee that includes Qusay Hussein and the directors of various branches of the Special Republican Guard and the Iraqi secret police. Their responsibilities have allegedly been divided as follows: the committee is responsible for day-to-day management of the concealment effort, while the guard and police hide specific items and acquire additional materials overseas.

The Special Security Organization has an operations center in Baghdad, for example, that keeps close tabs on the UN commission's activities and tries to organize countering moves. Its efforts begin at the commission's headquarters in Bahrain, where inspection teams routinely stop to complete last-minute preparations before flying to Baghdad. The aim is apparently to determine what type of specialists are on the team and thus obtain an early tip-off to what the inspector's targets might be.

Then, the moment the teams drive out of Baghdad in a particular direction, Iraqi "minders" who tag along can be heard radioing ahead to facilities in that area to be prepared for the visit, the UN officials say.

"We know they're importing a lot of shredders" and distributing them to sensitive government installations, said Charles Duelfer, a US diplomat on loan to the commission as its vice chairman. He added that as a result of Iraq's intensifying efforts to block the commission's work, only one or two of the teams has been able to find any documents related to Iraqi weapons of mass destruction work in the past year. "The offices we visit are often empty, having been swept clean moments before we arrive."

Visiting the headquarters of the Iraqi Special Security Organization is comparable to inspecting the CIA's headquarters, Duelfer acknowledges. "We know these facilities have legitimate security functions. But if we are to investigate illegitimate procurement, and find prohibited, concealed materials, we have no choice."

The foreign and domestic directorates of the intelligence service, known as M-4 and M-5, respectively, have been linked by the commission to recent covert efforts to procure missile gyroscopes from Russia and a variety of suspicious goods from Western Europe, including Teflon pipes that could be used to enrich uranium, glass pipes and chemical precursors for making poison gases, and filament winding machines for building nuclear centrifuges and ballistic missiles.

UN officials and diplomatic sources say they have evidence that the intelligence service's purchasing agents have been posted as commercial attaches in Iraqi embassies in Amman, Jordan and several European capitals. A recently completed UN probe of Iraq's secret acquisition of ballistic missile gyroscopes from Moscow suggests it is still using "front companies and individuals on a contract basis," according to the commission's Oct. 11 report.

Some UN officials have also accused the intelligence organization of involvement in more brazen acts of defiance and intimidation. In 1992, for example, the hotel apartment of the commission's first chairman, Swedish Ambassador Rolf Ekens, was burgled in an incident that federal law enforcement officials privately told the UN was highly suspicious. US intelligence officials also warned Ekens in 1995 that an Iraqi agent in New York was attempting to become friendly with a member of his staff. UN officials also say that inspectors on loan from several Western governments have received mysterious, threatening telephone calls at their homes.

(The Washington Post)

ANARCHY

Continued from Page 1

There were at first contradictory indications at the Tel Aviv Fairgrounds as to whether this was a popular, spontaneous insurrection or whether it was in fact being directed from above, via the Prime Minister's Office Director-General Avigdor Lieberman.

On the one hand, the rebels were given generous facilities. They had a pavilion at their disposal and they came prepared with electronic equipment and campaign material, including huge printed placards urging Katz's election and the return of power to the central committee.

"Trace of Lieberman," murmured a disgruntled Likud minister.

But if one listened to the delegates, one could hear genuine indignation and even passion. Yisrael Ashkenazi from Zichron Ya'acov said that "with all due respect, the ministers don't own us and they don't own the party. The party is us - plain people; this is a folkly non-elitist party and this is its greatness. We support the prime minister - we love and admire him - and our aim is to strengthen him. We want to put unruly ministers in their place. We won't let them undermine the prime minister. If they don't like the party platform, they can resign. We won't blindly toe their line. This is the essence of democracy."

MUTINY

Continued from Page 1

"We are all supporters of the prime minister. We back him. We are behind him. But we demand our right to make the decision."

Katz heads the moshav members' faction in the Likud central committee. He was a fellow student activist with Hanegbi and was at his side during the protests against evacuation of the Sinai settlements.

But even if - in contradiction to his public comments - Netanyahu has had enough of the primaries and the lack of discipline they cause in the Likud Knesset faction, what is happening is surely not the way he would have chosen to change the way the party elects its legislators.

This rebellion, if it achieves its real ends, calls his leadership into question, shakes his control of his own party, and delivers a smarming blow to his prestige.

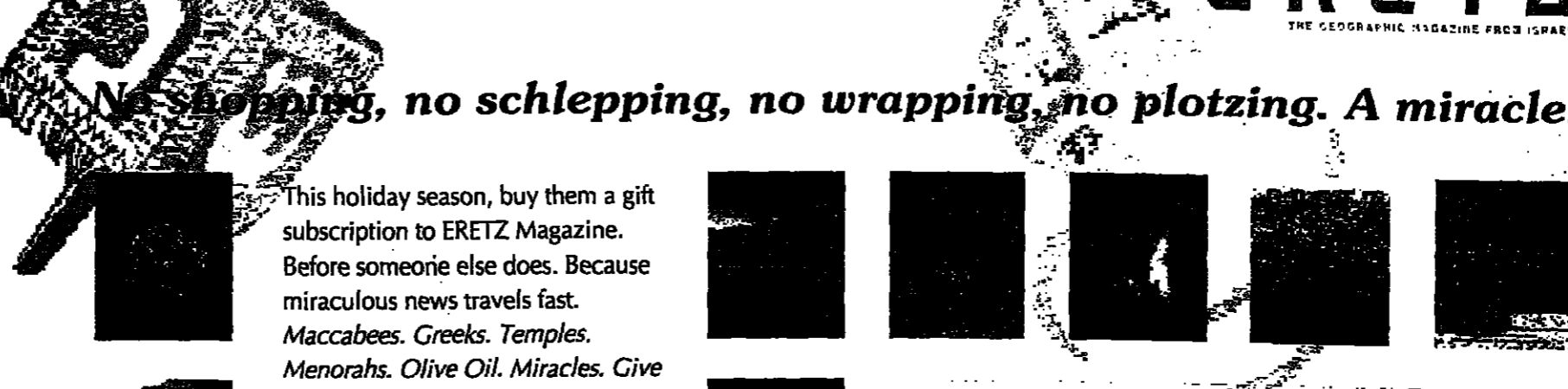
Netanyahu's face said it all. He plainly couldn't believe what he was seeing and hearing.

In fact, the delegates aren't out to topple Netanyahu. They are simply declaring their independence. But for running a political organization this is disastrous. In this case the delegates want to reclaim the clout the central committee, of which they are all members, once possessed. But while they may be more pliable on other issues, the development surrounding the issue of the primaries spells anarchy.

With the entire party leadership at a loss, Netanyahu declared the proceedings closed until after the secret ballot vote for presidium chairman, in the hope that in the interim tempers could be cooled.

In a final effort to deny charges of duplicity - that he has been claiming he wants a delay in the primary vote when in fact he wants them eliminated now - he told the delegates: "I mean every word I say. There are no games here, no winks, no hidden meanings. Please engage in soul searching."

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In Time

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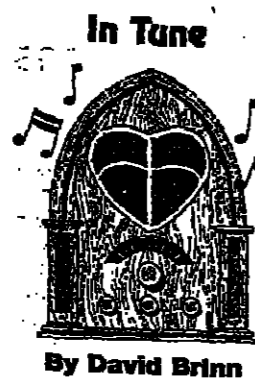
DANCE PODIUM

IDO T

ORNA

מזכרון תשלום

Songs of voices past



By David Brinn

That netherworld between the summer blockbusters and the holiday-season onslaught in the music business is traditionally filled with songs of voices past. That way, the suits figure, there's no risk involved with unknown elements or artists in decline. Repackage, change the order a little, splash on a new cover, and presto, you have yet another Greatest Hits package.

This month, three such tributes appear honoring the following rock legends: John Lennon, gunned down by an assassin 17 years ago; Queen, whose flamboyant frontman Freddy Mercury suc-

excellence, but I can't imagine any Lennon fan not already owning everything here. On the positive side, at least they didn't include the ghoulish "Free As A Bird."

QUEEN Rocks suffers from some of the same symptoms as the Lennon collection. Someone haphazardly selected a cross-section of the British band's tunes from various phases of its career, neglecting to consider whether they belong on a "Best Of" compilation.

The highlights clearly lean towards the band's early work. "Tie Your Mother Down," "Now I'm Here" and "Keep Yourself Alive" are prototype tuneful metal which countless bands have spent years copying.

Unfortunately, the emphasis here is on the band's work in the 1980s when pomposity and self-parody had taken hold. To top it off, the omission of "Bohemian Rhapsody" is unforgivable.

The inclusion of a new song recorded this year "No One But You" is an anemic ballad which falls far below Queen's standards, which had fallen pretty low by the end of its career.

- LENNON LEGEND**
John Lennon (NMC)
- QUEEN ROCKS**
Queen (NMC)
- THE BEST OF DAVID BOWIE 1969-1974**
David Bowie (NMC)
- GOOD FEELING**
Travis (NMC)

ON The Best of David Bowie 1969-1974, the chameleon-like pop innovator proves why he deserves to be the richest rocker in Britain. Switching personas and styles from album to album, Bowie created a stunning body of work early in his career. This collection also fails to keep to chronological order (are all record compilers mathematically challenged?). But it floats skillfully through his folk, hippie stage to his space-age glitter man and everything in between.

Bowie's highly developed sense of melody and showmanship melds perfectly with the monster guitar riffing of Mick Ronson and the results have influenced young rockers to this day.

Bowie eventually reached puberty and his voice dropped an octave or so. Following some interesting excursions with Brian Eno and Kraftwerk-like pop, he began to make disco albums and hasn't produced anything memorable in 15 years. But for a while, he really was "The Prettiest Star."

IF ALL this backward gazing has proved depressing, rest assured

climbed to Aids in 1991; and David Bowie, who committed artistic suicide years ago.

Lennon Legend is basically a rehash of Lennon's post-Beatles solo career, which has already been documented to death, pardon the pun. Not much care has gone into the packaging to make it stand out from the pack.

The photographs are classy, but the songs are not in chronological order, there's scanty information about the origins of the recordings and there's no attempt to put his career into any kind of historical perspective. Sure, the songs are for the most part Lennon par-



'Lennon Legend' is basically a rehash of Lennon's post-Beatles solo career.

that a ray of sunshine surfaces in Good Feeling, the debut album by a band from Glasgow called Travis. Taking its cue from mid-'60s prototypes like The Kinks and The

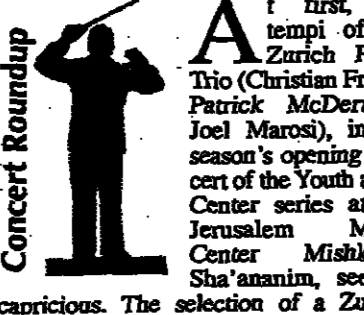
Who, the band plays basic rock with reckless abandon and tuneful playfulness.

Trashy without being dumb, Good Feeling barks back to the days when rock 'n' roll did pre-

cisely that - give it a good feeling. Simple, but three-chord rock, performed with panache and heart.

This little gem could prove to be the rock debut of the year.

Piano trio brings 'Ghosts' and 'Aliens' from Zurich



capricious. The selection of a Zurich-based ensemble for opening a series supposed to introduce local young talents may, likewise, have caused some raised eyebrows. Only when it was revealed that these young musicians, hailing from three countries, had first met at this center at an international music encounter four years ago and have been performing together ever since, did the center's proud achievement become obvious. After the initial shock effect of the unconventional tempi

- considerably faster than an allegro vivace e con brio is supposed to be, in Beethoven's "Ghosts" Trio, and markedly slower than what one expects from a molto allegro agitato (Mendelssohn's

The Zurich Piano Trio (Trio by Beethoven, Mendelssohn and Rihm) Jerusalem Music Center October 31

Trio op. 49) - had worn off, these justified themselves convincingly as the players went ahead. The ghosts' alacrity injected refreshing energy and liveliness into the movement without losing breath or sounding hurried, and Mendelssohn's slow-motion allegro permitted one to savor its captivating tunefulness to the full and celebrate its heart-rendering melodic turns. There was a champagne-like sparkle in the scherzo, and the

Mendelssohnian fairies hovered with midsummer's-night lightness in the finale.

For the sake of contrast, Wolfgang Rihm's Alien Scene III transported one to unfamiliar and unpredictable regions of sound. Seemingly coming out of nowhere, eerie high-strung tones alternated with explosive outbursts, only to fade out into nowhere again. This unwholesome yet gripping atmosphere was created by the Zurichers with as much intense involvement as the Romanticism of Beethoven and Mendelssohn.

THE Atlas Camerata orchestra conducted by Dalia Atlas, usually leading its somewhat hidden existence in Haifa, came to Jerusalem for the season's opening concert of the Etna chamber music series. Its attractive off-the-beaten-track pro-

gram - except for a Mozart certimento - included the world premiere of an elegy by the Anglo-Jewish contemporary

The Atlas Camerata Works by Mozart, Rihm, Bloch, Avni and Tappi Jerusalem Theater, November 3

composer Alexander Knapp. In its Romantic, far from contemporary style, it seemed to continue the spirit of the preceding Serenade by Elgar, until a violin solo nostalgically revealed the composer's Eastern European Jewish roots. The program opened with Zvi Avni's solemn tenet agitat, Prayer, in celebration of the composer's 70th birthday. The sensitivity of the rendition captured its inherent spirituality. The concluding works by Bloch - Concerto Grosso No. 2 and Allegro frenetico from his string Quartet No. 1, in

Atlas's arrangement - were brought wonderfully alive and close to the listener in this inspiring performance.

The Atlas Camerata, though chamber-size, produces a sonorous, well-rounded and delightfully balanced sound. It responds attentively to the conductor's good intentions and plays with elasticity, clear-cut articulation, delicate shades of dynamics and lively drive. Its potential for a significant contribution to the country's music life, even beyond the municipal boundaries of Haifa, seemed obvious. Ury Eppstein

PERGOLESI's infrequently heard 18th-century masterpiece La Serva Padrona was offered last week at the Sinfonietta, Beersheba. The comic scene - repartee and arias between a servant girl and her bumbling master - featured lanky Eli Gorenstein in a brilliant basso-buffo performance. His voice is modest in size, but he stretches its potential with infinite

shadings from falsetto to robusto and highlights these with a rich vocabulary of theatrical movements. Sharon Rostorf's well-sung and cheerful soprano was more conventional.

Conducting from the harpsichord, Dan Etinger filled in the chords, while the Sinfonietta gracefully backed up the singers with treble-bass polarity in the

'La Serva Padrona' by Pergolesi Beersheba Sinfonietta Beersheba Conservatory November 6 well-known Baroque intermezzo. Etinger led the full orchestra in the second half of the program in arias from Mozart and Rossini operas. His lyricism and sensitivity to sound were a refreshing change from the usual time-beating school of stick technique. Max Stern

DANCE ROUNDUP

Ido Tadmor bares his soul

Ido Tadmor lights up the stage, for his presence is electrifying. Not just because his superb physical capability surpasses local standards but because he has a rare need and ability to bare his soul. His vulnerability, sensitivity and yearning, combined with his total commitment as a performer, make him stretch and reach higher, farther, deeper, thus dooming him to dance on an emotional edge. For all these reasons, Tadmor has become a world class dancer-artist. Uranus, his third full-length choreography, opens with five

- CURTAIN UP debuts:
- 'Uranus' by Ido Tadmor;
 - 'Emma Goldman's Wedding' by Barak Marshal;
 - 'Quest' by Yossi Yungman;
 - 'Duet' by Inbal Pinto;
 - 'For Better or Worse' by Soula D'Orleans; Juste Suzanne Dellal

long white tulle canopies; inside of each is a pair of dancers. As the lights go up a bit, one sees that the male dancers are nude. This intense moment is over within seconds. The mood changes and the canopies become flowing angelic dresses. The work is a collage of fleeting images, moods and temperaments. Most of the time the sequences work well, but the choreography needs some tightening. The closing



JOC combines Moldovan tradition with Swiss precision.

scene is not well related to the rest of the dance and only serves to clutter it. The best moments occurred when Tadmor gave it his all and turned his solo into a touching duet and when he let go of his ego and revealed a funny, playful but somewhat racy scene with tiny percussion instruments placed on gender-indicative body parts. An interesting work, well worth seeing.

IT'S always a delight to see a dance that is sharp and crystal clear, that springs from a wildly imaginative mind overflowing with humor. It is a double treat to see it performed by two talented

trump card - his mother, Mgalit Oved, the superstar of Inbal's '50s. This woman is phenomenal. She recited long sections from the Bible and told some stories in her unique, vivid and powerful voice, accentuating her Yeminit accent. If he is water, she is oil; the fact that she doesn't mix does not diminish the pleasure of watching her.

JOC is a veteran folk dance company which has been led by founder Vladimir Kabet for the past 50 years. The company flourished in the '70s, mostly in socialist countries, articularly in the eastern bloc.

JOC The National Dance Ensemble of Moldova

The basic concept is if you take folk songs, folk dance movements, ethnic national costumes and mix them together with these performers, you will have a hit for ages, particularly at the time when the national state of mind needed a boost. Luckily, the best company never lacked audiences around the world, craving the optimism and vitality that this company transmits. JOC presents a highly commercialized product with Swiss precision, and the dancers' blend of rigor and tempo is accompanied by fine musicians.

NEWS of the muse

Satisfaction guaranteed or your money back
As part of its efforts to bring its customers into the selection process on Friday night Shani Films Ltd., is asking viewers at Jerusalem's Lev Smadar cinema for their opinion of the hit British movie *Brassed Off*. Anyone who says he didn't enjoy the film gets his money back. At a recent screening of *Brassed Off* at LevTel Aviv, only four of 217 viewers asked for refunds, a Shani spokeswoman said, adding that she hopes the film will be just popular in Jerusalem. Jerusalem Post Staff

Red Sea festival a hit before it begins!
Three months before the opening of the Red Sea Classical Music Festival (January 22-25, 1998), over 650 festival packages (comprising flights, accommodation and concert tickets) have been sold - more than the overall sales of the entire festival last year. This means that more than 2,500 tickets were sold for the three major festival concerts (Verdi's *Aida*, Mahler's second symphony, and a Stravinsky evening), all performed by the St. Petersburg Kirov orchestra under the baton of its exuberant and electrifying music director Valery Gergiev. *Eilat packages* are sold only at the festival office (Artis Ltd., Tel. 03-5164419/5179025). Prices range from NIS 1,300 to NIS 1,958, depending on level of hotel. Michael Aizenstadt

Habama adds music to its fringe activities
The Jerusalem Habama Theater, a stronghold of fringe theater and dance events in the capital for many years, has added music to its agenda. In the next two months, in the intimate setting of Habama, there will be eight ethnic music and jazz-fusion concerts featuring some of Israel's leading musicians. Some of the concerts are similar in content and style, as well as in the musicians they feature, to those taking place in Jerusalem's Confederation House. Michael Aizenstadt

The Holy Land in Hollywood
The 14th Israel Film Festival in Los Angeles formally raised the curtain Wednesday on its two-week program of 50 feature movies, documentaries, TV films, and golden oldies with an opening night gala at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. With American-Israeli actor Mike Burstyn as master of ceremonies, a roster of dignitaries ascended to the podium to laud the artistic strides made by the Israeli film industry over the last 50 years and to pay tribute to the festival's founder-director Meir Fenigstein. Plaques of appreciation were presented to Naftali Alter, general manager of the Fund for the Promotion of Israeli Quality Films, and to invincible producer Menahem Golan. Noting the many Israelis who have made their names in Hollywood, Golan called on the expatriates to follow his example and return home to contribute their talents to the growth of the Israeli film industry. Director Yossi Sommer was on hand to introduce his film *The Dybbuk of the Holy Apple Field*, a powerful movie that transports the classic tale of faith and star-crossed love to present-day Mea She'arim. Sommer dedicated his film to "my Jewish passion and my Israeli heritage." Tom Tugend

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Indian Jews fight for recognition – again

The dispute over the Jewishness of the B'nai Israel of India was settled decades ago – or so members of the community thought. But a Petah Tikva rabbi is refusing to register their marriages.

Allison Kaplan Sommer reports

When Orly Solomon dreamed about the week before her wedding, she imagined herself tending to the last-minute details: making sure her dress is perfect, the hall is prepared, and that the flowers will be in the right place when she stands under the wedding canopy.

But instead of focusing on her wedding to Ra'anana Wald, scheduled to take place on Thursday, Solomon has been spending her time arguing with rabbis and clerks, and being interviewed by the media, after being caught unexpectedly in the center of a controversy over the legitimacy of her Judaism.

"It's supposed to be the most wonderful time of my life, and instead, it's been the most stressful," she says. "I never imagined in my wildest dreams that I would have to fight for my wedding."

Solomon is the daughter of parents who are members of B'nai Israel, who came to Israel from the Jewish communities of New Delhi and Bombay in the 1960s. Last week, on Sunday, she was informed that Baruch Shimon Solomon, the Ashkenazi chief rabbi in Petah Tikva, had issued an interpretation of Jewish law which cast doubt on whether the Indian immigrants and their children were truly Jewish, and ordered the clerks in the marriage bureau offices to refuse to deal with the cases. To those who protested the policy, he explained that he would only validate their marriages if they underwent a ritual immersion for conversion purposes to assure him of their Jewishness.

Orly Solomon, who grew up in Israel, came from a traditional family, served in the army and had carried around identity cards declaring her Jewishness her

entire life, was horrified. Solomon, like two other Petah Tikva women, Shula and Simha Tsriker, who experienced the identical problem the same month, flatly refused to undergo the conversion.

So for several long days last week, pressure was applied on the Petah Tikva chief rabbi through rabbinical consultations, pleas by the family to politicians, and public appeals.

While that was happening Solomon considered her alternatives: find another municipality which would agree to register her and her fiancé and keep her plans for an Orthodox service, be married by a Reform or Conservative rabbi or get married in a civil ceremony in another country.

Canceling the wedding, set for this Thursday, was out of the question. "We have guests coming from England, from the United States, from India," she says. "It was impossible to postpone it."

Why did Rabbi Solomon make the decision to refuse to marry those of Indian descent? He has refused to comment publicly throughout the affair, and would not answer *The Jerusalem Post's* requests for a response. He reportedly told one of the Tsriker sisters that it was because of the case of one person of Indian descent who came to register. There were doubts about the Jewishness of that individual's mother. In the rabbi's opinion, this threw the Jewishness of the entire community into question. It was then that he declared that neither he nor his subordinates in the Petah Tikva rabbinate would deal with those of Indian descent.

In the 1950s and 1960s there was considerable controversy in rabbinic circles over the

Jewishness of Indian Jews when they first immigrated to Israel. Their history was undisputed – historic synagogues stand in India – but the expertise of their rabbis in family matters was questioned, and some rabbis demanded that they undergo conversions. After a series of protests and sit-down strikes, former Sephardic chief rabbi Ovadia Yosef investigated the question and issued what has been considered a definitive interpretation of Jewish law which upholds the legitimacy of Indian Jewry.

The Petah Tikva decision shocked and saddened members of the B'nai Israel community in general, and none more than the parents of the young people who were not able to register.

"In 1969 I left India, where I and my wife had excellent jobs and a promising future, so that my children could grow up in Israel, have a Jewish education and a Jewish life," says Gedalia Solomon, Orly's father. "We came here for their sake. I served in the army, did my reserve service, and built my life. And now, to have to watch my daughter go through this breaks my heart and has made me sick. How dare our Jewishness be questioned by some fanatic? My great-grandfather was a rabbi in Poona, a city near Bombay."

"I understand the rabbi's concern if he found one Indian Jew who raised questions, but that is not a reason to blacken an entire community."

Instead of preparing for the wedding, he said that his home had been turned into "a battlefield" over the past week, and that members of his family have been busy with phone calls and faxes to government offices, rabbis, and the media. Pina Tsriker, 46, the mother of



Orly Solomon and her fiancé, Ra'anana Wald. "I never imagined in my wildest dreams I would have to fight for my wedding," says Solomon.

Simha, who is set to marry on December 2, said she was hurt and insulted at what had happened to

her daughter: "It is not right, and it is not fair," she said. "We have three sons who were married without any problems or questions. How dare they question our Jewishness?"

Rabbi David Raz of Beersheba, a respected rabbi from the Indian community, played a key role in mediating Orly Solomon's case, and, in the end, succeeded in getting her registered to marry under Petah Tikva auspices.

Raz says that he has received an assurance from Sephardi Chief Rabbi Bakshi-Doron and Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau, that the rabbinate in Petah Tikva and Rabbi Solomon have been instructed to process the applications of Indian immigrants in matters of marriage. "If he refuses to follow the policies of the Chief Rabbinate, Rabbi Solomon must either tender his resignation or be moved to another position," Raz says.

Raz says that although it has been many years since the issue was a source of public controversy, he was not entirely surprised that it had surfaced again.

"We have more tools to fight now. Back then we were newcomers, now we have lawyers, judges, army officers in our community,"

There are also young political activists in the Indian community. One is David Naveh, a member of The Third Way party, who transformed his Tel Aviv home into a coordinating center for the Petah Tikva struggle.

Naveh sees the case as a turning point in consciousness-raising for Indian Jews. "The generation that came to Israel from India were a patient, gentle, polite, agreeable

people who tried to get along and did not like to be involved in controversy. We, the younger generation of sabras, are not afraid of confronting the establishment and fighting for what is right."

"I served in the army, did my reserve service and built my life. And now, to have to watch my daughter go through this breaks my heart and makes me sick. How dare our Jewishness be questioned by some fanatic? My great-grandfather was a rabbi in India"

—Gedalia Solomon

Originally, he said, the leaders of the Indian community in Petah Tikva had looked for ways to get around the problem, such as regis-

tering the marriage in neighboring Rosh Ha'ayin, as the Tsriker cousins chose to do.

"I asked them: 'Haven't you been paying taxes in Petah Tikva for years?'" said Naveh. "Isn't that where you live? You shouldn't go to Rosh Ha'ayin, Tel Aviv or Jerusalem. The next thing you know they are going to tell us to go back to India to get married. We serve in this country's army and we have rights."

Neither Naveh nor Orly Solomon herself is completely satisfied by the resolution to the problem. Although Orly and others of Indian descent will be permitted to register in Petah Tikva, their marriage certificates will be signed by a chief rabbi of another city, most likely Rosh Ha'ayin.

"I think it is awful and leaves a bad taste in my mouth. It is obvious that Rabbi Solomon still believes that Indian Jews are not Jewish. This man holds a public position, and he is blatantly prejudiced," Solomon says. "Something must be done."

She says that after her wedding, she wants to be involved in efforts that Naveh and others are organizing to demand an apology from Rabbi Solomon and press him to either agree to sign the marriage certificates of Indian Jews or resign.

"We are even considering suing him for insulting our entire community," she said. Naveh adds that Indian Jews are determined to "fight for our rights in every non-violent, legal means that we can find. We are going to resolve this issue and fight any prejudice that still exists against us, not only in Petah Tikva, but in the whole country."

The Dahanuq airport will become a deplorable precedent, set as a model for future border crossing



The Solomon family in Poona, India, circa 1938. Orly's father, Gedalia, sits at the far left, on the floor. His great-grandfather, Shlomo Rahamin Penker (center) was the rabbi of Poona. (Reproduction by Jonathan Bloom)

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Whose life is it, anyway?

My husband glanced over my shoulder as I was poring over a newspaper story spelling out the details of Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai's romance with and marriage to Kochi Shimshi — one of those thoroughly gossipy articles that drives us to condemn how the press invades the private life of a public figure. After we'd devoured every word, my husband asked, "Is this supposed to bother me?" What he meant was, is a '90s-style sensitive, politically correct guy supposed to be appalled by a love match that has a 29-year age gap?

Mordechai is 54. Shimshi, who managed his office before leaving to study law, is 25 years old. Shimshi's mother is eight years younger than her son-in-law. Technically, Shimshi is the step-mother of Mordechai's children, who are older than she is.

Mordechai's was the second highly publicized May-December match of the past few months. We gossip-mongers had barely recovered from tales about ratings-king Dudu Topaz, 51, standing atop Masada and plighting his troth to Roni Hen, 27, a student of social work and former freelance journalist.

He lauds the fact that his wife is studying social work and that her skills should be perfected by the time she has to push his wheelchair. So, fine, guys, I'll let you off the hook. At least you are not Woody Allen, and these women are not the adopted teenage daughters of your ex-girlfriend.

Sure, it's a little disappointing that women of your own age, stature, and level of accomplishment do not appeal to you, but we all must find our own happiness. Nobody is forcing these young women to marry you — we're not talking about primitive cultures where 12-year-olds are being sold off to men in their 30s and 40s. And, at least instead of dating a parade of young chicks, you have made it to the point where you are interested in committing to one young chick. And these are adult women — they can do math and they understand physiology and hopefully thought through their decision to marry someone so much older than themselves.

In fact, women friends of mine who are just a few years older than their husbands often face nasty comments and relentless monitoring of their biological clock by

Home Front



Allison Kaplan Sommer



Sisters in crime: Special agent Jim Arey gives a group of mystery writers instructions on identifying explosives so they can write about bombings more realistically. (AP)

Murder, she wrote

By TARA MEYER

In a church meeting room in Atlanta, special agent Jim Arey lays out an arsenal of explosives to the glee of a group of sinister sisters.

The women take copious notes as he picks up a sheet of explosive as thin as an envelope to demonstrate the finer points of letter bombs. Earlier, over beer and fajitas, the group had chatted about the joy of the kill.

"Loved your gunshot wounds," writer Kathy Hogan Trocheck told colleague Teri Holbrook, referring to an especially gruesome end to a character in her book "The Grass Widow." These mystery writers are determined to get the gory details of death right. Experts at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms are among their best sources.

"We are writing fiction, but we are trying to create a world that's believable," Ms. Trocheck says. "I want my fiction to seem real." They belong to an international network of mystery writers called Sisters in Crime, founded about a decade ago. Sisters' 42 chapters — including two in Canada and one in Germany — promote women in a mystery field dominated by men. Its 3,200 members have included, at one time or another, such best-selling authors as Sara Paretsky and Mary Higgins Clark.

For this bunch, it's also become a monthly caucus on how to get away with murder.

These sleuths are serious. Their sign-in sheet reads "Sign In or Die!" Their newsletter is known as the "Rap Sheet." But in the quest for accuracy, their intentions are sometimes misunderstood.

One night over dinner, they were consulting each other on poison. Their waitress never returned.

A pharmacist was shocked when Laurien Berenson, who specializes in mayhem on the dog show circuit, asked her to explain how to use arsenic. The druggist immediately called Ms. Berenson's husband. "He said, 'That's OK. She does it all the time,'" Ms. Berenson said.

Accuracy is worth the trouble because readers are quick to point out mistakes.

"Members of the National Rifle Association have written me several times because they have been angry that I said a gun fired 10 rounds instead of eight," Ms. Paretsky said. Her female sleuth V.I. Warshawski has graced the pages of eight books and landed her own movie.

"This one man wrote me a 10-page letter about every mistake I had made in all my books and said I was obviously a Communist who wanted to take guns out of Americans' hands," she said.

Tonight, their consultant is Arey, a bomb expert with the ATF for 31 years.

"Sure, I was reluctant to come here," Arey says. "But I have no reason to think they want to learn about bombs for any other reason than to put some realism into

their books." So he explains the finer points of bombs, from a fuse that can burn a 76-mile trail from Atlanta to Macon in 20 seconds, to the ammonium nitrate package that looks like a bag of manure.

Later, the women and a few men slip on latex gloves and sift through some of Arey's samples, looking for the switch, battery and blasting caps.

Scott Schmid, a cellular immunologist with the CDC, once told the group how to grow the toxin that causes botulism and inject it into a victim's insulin supply for a swift kill.

"I was very careful to talk about things in ways that nobody would really be able to use it, but it could make a good plot," Schmid said. "I certainly didn't give them a cookbook. They've held guns in their hands, learned the ways of a prostitute, studied the nose of a tracking dog and the tactics of a medical examiner. For one lecture, a bone specialist brought along a human skeleton.

"There's a mutual trust," says Annette Meyers, national president of Sisters in Crime. "They show us a lot of things, and they ask us please not to talk to the public about it." Wait a minute. Won't the public just read about it?

"If people read it and they are already disturbed, maybe that gives them ideas," says Mrs. Meyers, who plans a poisonous azalea as the weapon in one murder plot. "I think most of the time nobody does it." (AP)

At least Topaz has the good humor to joke about it. 'Yeah, I was thinking we should double-date. Yitzhak and I can talk and our wives can play with Barbies.'

As a sympathetic friend of a number of attractive, intelligent, warm single women in their 30s and 40s who haven't yet found Mr. Right, I'd like to be able to condemn and criticize these matches. But can one really argue with love? And even if these couples involve a deal that is more than pure love — if they trade youth and beauty for money, power and influence — can anyone claim that more self-interested exchanges have not been made in the name of matrimony? After all, didn't Knesset member Aryeh Deri basically admit in open court that he married his wife for her dowry?

In the case of both Dudu and Itzik (like many Israeli men, their childhood nicknames have followed them into middle age), the men in question have been long divorced. They did not blatantly trade in their wives for newer models. At least Topaz has the good humor to joke about it. "Yeah, I was thinking we should double-date," he said. "Yitzhak and I can talk and our wives can

friends, family and casual acquaintances. And that goes double for public figures: ex-model Heli Goldenberg was grilled endlessly by the press regarding the fact that her husband, Avri Gilad, was in his mid-thirties and she was already 40 when they got married.

One of the most romantic stories I have ever heard was the case of dear friends of mine, Debra and Yossi, who met when he was 28 and she was 38. Heavy pressure was put on Yossi to forget about this woman. After all, she was far too old for him, married family and friends. As months went by, he tried to do as he was told and dated other women. "But," Yossi said, "I realized after a while that I was just looking for a younger version of Debra. That was silly, so I decided to go for the real thing. What is important is being happy. Who cares what anyone else thinks? Age, after all, is only a number."

I'm sure that newlyweds Mordechai and Topaz heartily agree.

Single-minded about dating

Dear Ruthie,
I am 36 and still single. All my friends have been married so long that many of them are already getting divorced. I have always had trouble meeting men. I am uncomfortable at parties, afraid to go on blind dates, and never seem to get along romantically with any of the men I work with. In the past, whenever I did meet someone, the relationship was short-lived, usually as a result of the man being afraid to commit or of just not being seriously interested in me.

Now that two of my friends are recently divorced, I am even more in despair about my situation because they keep getting offers from men to go out — even now — while I still remain the perpetual wallflower. I would very much like to have a family, but I don't see how that will ever be possible if I cannot even get a date. My friends keep

telling me I have to be more outgoing and take more risks, but that is not in my nature. Is there hope for me, and if so, where does it lie?

Single in a Slump
Somewhere in Israel
Dear In a Slump,

Your friends are right in suggesting that you are participating in your predicament. But they are wrong in assuming that all you need to do is undergo a "simple" metamorphosis by following their example.

It is not surprising that these two women, who have already been married and divorced, are getting offers from men. The fact that each married long ago indicates that "coupledom" for them was as much an assumption about how their



Ruthie Blum

lives were to be shaped as it must have been a goal. Though you believe that you, too, share this goal by consciously wanting to have a family, something else must be at work unconsciously that has prevented you from pursuing it.

Rather than making an internal assumption about yourself as someone who would be married, and rather than setting this as an internal aim, your vision of yourself was more likely one of singlehood.

What makes your situation so complicated is the battle between your unconscious and your conscious selves, with the former erecting hurdles along the latter's path. Since the unconscious is always a much

more powerful player in such contests, the intellectual desires harbored tend to get tripped up by the gut ones at every step of the way.

Learning how to jump over our own hurdles in the worst case, and learning how to chop them down altogether in the best, is an arduous emotional task — often impossible to tackle without professional help. The good news is that it can be done. Where there's a way, there's a will which can be altered.

So, while your friends are out dating, you might invest your energy in undergoing a little internal metamorphosing. It will be a lot more valuable to you in the long run than even the best matchmaking service.

Letters should be addressed to: 'Dear Ruthie,' POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. For E-mail: editors@jpost.co.il

GRAPEVINE BY GREER FAY CASHMAN

A view from above



Is the president aspiring for greater heights? (Isaac Herzog)

At the gala opening of the Hebrew University's international \$600 million fundraising campaign, President Ezer Weizman brought up the issue of real estate. While he didn't want to create any new political controversy, he stressed, he would like to move the official residence of the president to Mount Scopus, where he could give visitors a panoramic view of the city.

ONE of Yitzhak Rabin's former secretaries, Miri Danon, recalling his punctuality, said he was obsessive about being on time, and only once as far as she could remember did he arrive at the office five minutes late. In their weekly *Ma'ariv* series on The Israeli, Tzvi Gilat and Micha Kirschner brought together the 11-member team who ensured the smooth running of the Prime Minister's Office during the Rabin administration. With his peculiar brand of modesty, said Danon, Rabin sheepishly apologized for his tardiness, explaining that his wife had forgotten to wake him.

RECIPIENT of the B'nai Brith International Humanitarian Award, Raya Jaglom, revealed that throughout her 57 years of marriage, her husband, Josef, had never attended any of the ceremonies in which she was honored. Last Thursday night was the exception. The occasion coincided with the 20th birthday of the Jagloms' granddaughter Dafna Jaglom, in whose name they presented six \$1,000 scholarships at the WIZO school in Afula. Detailing Raya Jaglom's considerable achievements in the fields of Zionist endeavor, culture, edu-

Maatchen Land, wife of South African ambassador Frank Land. Thus the only diplomatic wives at the WIZO benefit at the Tel Aviv Hilton were Nagwa Bassiouny, wife of the Egyptian ambassador, and Catherine Manning, wife of the British ambassador.

Bassiouny, an expert on Middle East Mean Time, is well aware that hardly anything in Israel starts at the hour stated on the invitation, so as soon as the show was over, she headed for the birthday party at the Beit Or American restaurant in Ramat Gan, where the festivities were still in full swing. Other guests at the birthday brunch included Dahlia Kahalani, wife of the minister of internal security; Naomi Bentsur, wife of the director general of the Foreign Ministry; Gloria Ofensmekla, wife of the dean of the diplomatic corps; and Philippines Ambassador Rosalinda de Perio Santos.

THE INFANT son of Iris and Laurence Goldman of Modi'in, Maor Chaim Goldman, was inducted into the faith last week. Named after his great-grandfather Chaim Goldman, who had come from Bialystok to Liverpool and founded the Allerton Hebrew Congregation, little Maor Chaim wore the same prayer shawl that had been worn 38 years earlier by his father when he was circumcised at the Women's Hospital in Liverpool. The baby's paternal grandparents, Shlomo and June Goldman of Livorno, and his uncle Philip Goldman of Sheffield flew in for the occasion.

CURRENTLY in Israel to celebrate the 20th anniversary of ISEF, the



Like father like son? Kirk and Michael Douglas (Photos: UPPA)

International Sephardic Education Foundation of which she is the founder and world president, Nina Avidar Weiner, who can truly describe herself as a citizen of the world. Born in Egypt to a Russian father and a third-generation Israeli mother of Sephardi background, Weiner, who resides in New York, studied psychology in Geneva, completed her master's degree in vocational counseling at Columbia University, and then began a career in Israel. She founded ISEF with the encouragement of banker Edmond Safra and over the years has distributed scholarships to some 3,500 students. She is married to Walter Weiner, chairman and CEO of the Republic National Bank of New York.

Jaglom is due to receive further honors later this month, from the Tel Aviv Museum of Art for which she has raised a great deal of money, in addition to cajoling gifts, loans and bequests from private collections. Will her husband, who is based in Geneva, be there? We'll have to wait and see.

FRIDAY morning fashion shows, which are so popular in Tel Aviv, usually have a large representation of female diplomats and wives of members of the diplomatic corps. The Gideon and Ekren Oberson show on behalf of WIZO Tel Aviv's projects for economically and emotionally deprived youth was an exception. The reason: It clashed with the birthday party organized by socialite Naomi Cherpak on behalf of enormously popular

ROUNDLY praised for decades of devoted work on behalf of the Hebrew University, Sam Rothberg, honorary chairman of the HU Board of Governors, expressed appreciation for the nice things said about him. "I hope no one takes any notice of them because I don't," he declared.

THEY look like two peas in a pod and chose the same profession but, unlike his father Kirk Douglas, Michael Douglas is not halachically Jewish. While not ashamed of his Jewish roots, Michael simply doesn't have a head for religion just now, but he doesn't discount the possibility that he may one day make the commitment. The question is whether his eventual conversion will be Orthodox, Conservative or Reform.

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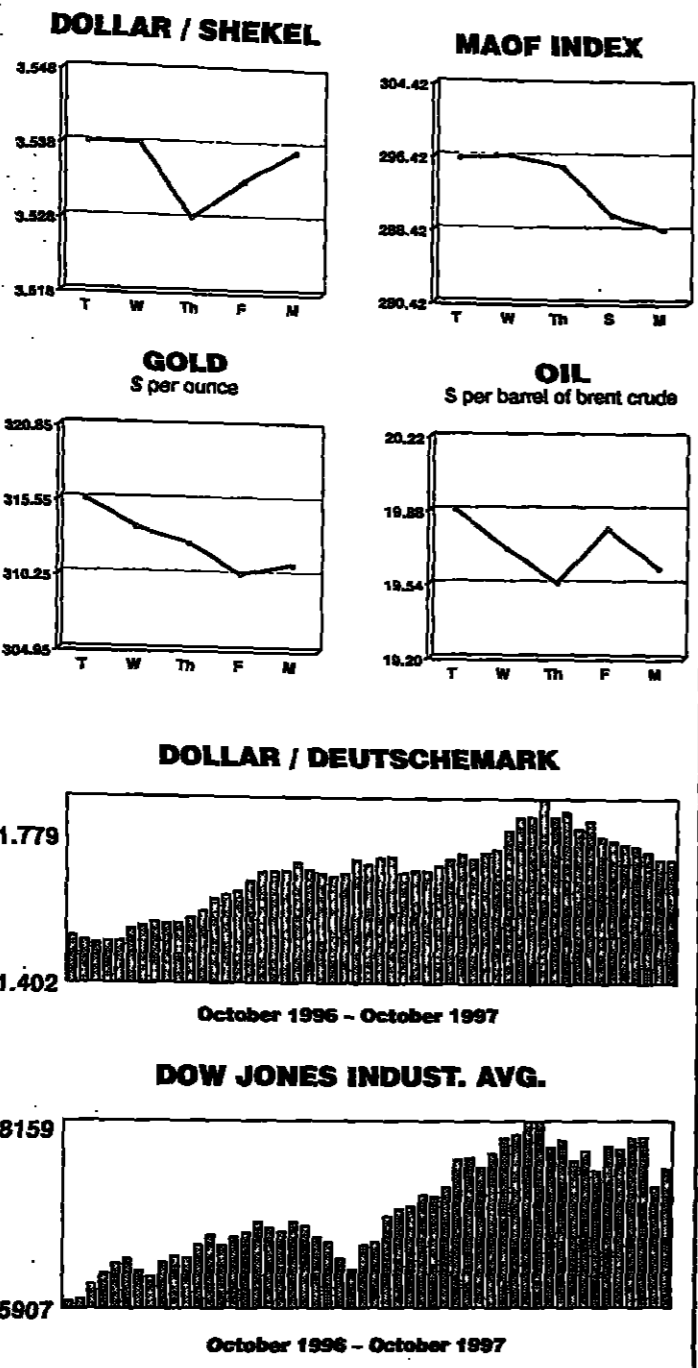
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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Tuesday, November 11, 1997

MARKETS

in brief



Mexico approves Shilov's HIV device
Shilov Medical Technologies yesterday said that Mexico's Ministry of Health has approved the use of the company's Shilov Tube for the detection of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. Shilov said it will begin marketing the tube to blood banks, hospitals, clinics and diagnostic laboratories within the next few months. The tube is designed to detect HIV more quickly and accurately than current methods. An estimated 10 million blood and plasma samples are tested for HIV annually in Mexico and Latin America. The tube is under review in Brazil, Israel, South Africa and Kenya. The company will begin US clinical trials in the beginning of 1998. *Jennifer Friedlin*

Industrial exports up 10% this year
Industrial exports will increase by 10% in 1997 to \$16 billion, the Export Institute announced yesterday. One-third of all exports will come from the high-tech sector. The institute attributed the increase to Israeli companies' success in developing cutting edge products over the past few years. *Jennifer Friedlin*

Teams to start organizing national railway
Ya'acov Katz, director-general of the National Infrastructure Ministry, has on Minister Ariel Sharon's instructions appointed teams to look into the activities and tasks required for the establishment of a national railway company. The three team heads are David Gershonovitz (railway assets, excluding real estate), Ahaz Ben-Ari (real estate in railway use) and Yoel Naveh (subsidies for the railways). The establishment of a railway company has been held up for some time because of objections from the Treasury. However, because of organizational and legal activities necessary for the establishment of the company, Sharon has decided it should be put into effect immediately so it can begin working once Knesset approval is received. *Sybil Ehrlich*

Elron's net income soars
Elron Electronic Industries reported yesterday that net income in the third quarter rose to \$13.3 million from \$2.5m. in the same period last year. The company wrote a \$7.4m. capital gain from the successful public offering of Elbit Systems in the US. In the nine months ending on September 30, 1997, net income rose to \$22.5m., against \$7.5m. in the same period last year. In a statement, Elron's chairman and chief executive officer, Uzia Galil, said "we are very pleased to recognize the success of the Elbit merger... which has not only helped to focus the management on each of its own market but has also created considerable value both for the Elbit and Elron shareholders." A year ago Elron's main holding, Elbit, was split into three companies - Elbit Medical Imaging, which focuses on health care; Elbit Systems, which concentrates on defense; and Elbit, which focuses on commercial products. *Dan Gerstenfeld*

Tourism Ministry woos US with cheap deal
Hundreds of Americans are taking advantage of a special deal to travel here this winter, the Tourism Ministry said this week. According to the ministry, the deals include a fly and drive package for \$999 and a touring package for \$1,399. Information about the deals was sent in a direct mailing to 450,000 households identified as potential clients, including Jewish families of average or above-average income who had not visited Israel or had not visited in recent years. *Haim Shapiro*

Cable TV threatens petition to High Court
Cable TV companies are demanding that the government investigate the legality of using the Budget Law to change the Bezeq Law in the field of direct broadcasting by satellite of TV programming. In a letter sent to Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman, Communications Minister Limor Livnat and Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein, the five regional cable companies said it was a warning before they filed a petition to the High Court of Justice against including the Bezeq Law amendment in the Budget Law, as part of the Arrangements Law being pushed by the Treasury. The companies, which stand to lose their exclusivity if customers could get satellite TV broadcasts without a cable subscription, said proper administration is being violated by such legislation. *Judy Siegel*

Sharansky weighs court action against Bezeq

By DAVID HARRIS and news agencies
Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky yesterday instructed his staff to investigate the possibility of indicting Bezeq International for its alleged violation of the Consumer Protection Law. On Sunday, the Antitrust Authority formally accused senior Bezeq International staff of employing unfair business practices designed to give the company an advantage ahead of the introduction

of competition in the overseas telephone-call market. "On the basis of the evidence... it would appear there is significant fear that Bezeq International and its management violated the Consumer Protection Law," read a statement from the Industry and Trade Ministry. The section of the law allegedly breached by the company's managers, entitled Deception and Exploitation of Distress, prohibits anyone selling or providing a service from doing any act that causes material deception from the consumers' point of view, including the subjects of prices, among them advertised prices. Another section provides that in case of deception in advertising, anyone on whose behalf the advertisement was made, and the person who submitted the material for publication and thereby caused it to be published, shall be deemed to be in breach of the law. This is in addition to the distributor, or whoever actually decided to place the advertisement, if the advertisement was misleading on the face of it, or if they knew it to be misleading.

Any legal action on this basis would be initially dealt with by the magistrates court, with an appeal to the district court. MKs were among those who yesterday attacked the company in light of the allegations. Emanuel Zissman (The Third Way) wrote to Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani demanding a police investigation against senior company executives, including Chairman Moshe Haba and Director-General Ori Yogeve, arguing it is a criminal offense for a monopoly to use its power for negative purposes. Zissman's proposal will also be discussed by the Knesset plenum next week. Labor faction chairman Ra'anah Cohen, meanwhile, requested the issue be brought before the Knesset State Comptroller's committee. Cohen described Bezeq International as a national disgrace. Responding to the various charges made over the last two days Yogeve told the *Jerusalem Post* the claims are without foundation, but it is perfectly legitimate for agencies to investigate the issue.

MCI accepts WorldCom bid

By COLLEEN McELROY
JACKSON, Mississippi - MCI Communications Corp. yesterday accepted WorldCom Inc.'s increased offer of \$51 a share in stock, or \$41.8 billion including assumed debt, which topped bids by GTE Corp. and British Telecommunications Plc for the No. 2 U.S. long-distance company. WorldCom's offer - the largest ever in the US - is 23 percent higher than its original bid of \$41.50 a share made on October 1. It also beats a rival \$40-a-share all-cash bid from GTE and \$33.63 a share in stock and cash from British Telecom.

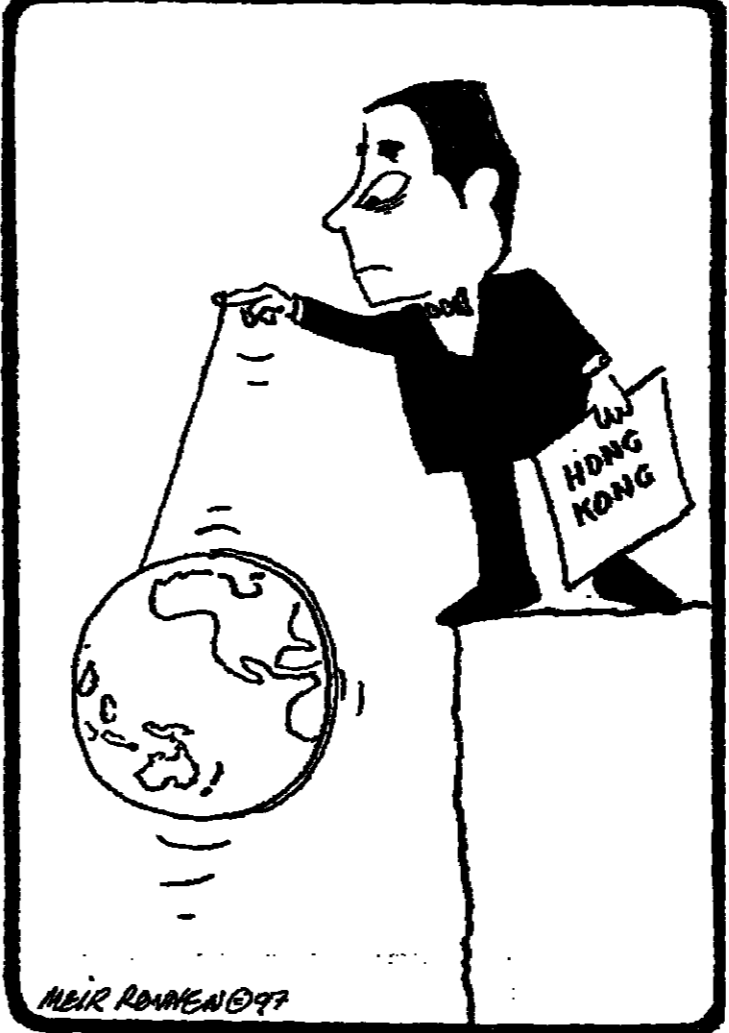
A combined MCI and WorldCom would be a formidable competitor to AT&T Corp. with a quarter of the US long-distance business and operations in 102 US local phone markets - giving the new company much-needed networks to compete against the Baby Bells.

The agreement also wipes out British Telecom's plan to use MCI to gain a foothold in the US telecommunications market. "This saves MCI from struggling with its local phone initiatives," said Scott Wright, an analyst at Argus Research. "This only increases the pressure on Mike Armstrong (AT&T CEO) to get his hands around AT&T."

British Telecom won't have a stake in the combined MCI WorldCom. Instead, it will get \$51-a-share in cash for its 20% stake. MCI shares rose 5 1/8 to 42 in early trading of 6.94 million, making them the most active in US markets. WorldCom shares fell 7/8 to 32 1/4 and were the second-most active.

Shares of GTE rose 2 3/8 to 46. GTE said it is reviewing the situation and has no immediate comment. British Telecom's American depositary receipts climbed 2 1/2 to 79 1/2. MCI Chairman Bert Roberts will be chairman of the combined company, which will be called MCI WorldCom. WorldCom Chairman and Chief Executive Bernard Ebbers will be CEO.

"We have aligned ourselves with a management team and employees who share our entrepreneurial spirit and continue to pioneer competition in our industry," Ebbers said. "The expertise of Mr. Roberts and his colleagues will be invaluable." Other top MCI managers also will join MCI WorldCom. (Bloomberg)



Report proposes 10 projects for regional tourism

By DAVID HARRIS
Ireland-based consultant Jennings O'Donovan recommends 10 major projects for promoting international tourism and technical advances in the Southeast Mediterranean (SEMED), in its interim report, published at the weekend by Israel's Foreign Ministry. The coastline between Port Said and Ashkelon, including Gaza, is one of several areas surrounding Israel pinpointed for regional cooperation projects. The report recommends a total investment of \$16.748 million for the schemes:

- Technical and vocational training for Gaza (\$580,000 to be funded by Israel, Egypt and the PA)
- Rehabilitation of training centers in Gaza and Rafah (\$3.4m. - donor countries and PA)
- Establishing a trainer development program in Gaza (\$600,000 - Israel, Egypt, PA and European Union)
- Development of agricultural laboratories at Beit Lahia (\$1.41m. - Israel, Egypt, PA and Europe/US)
- Safe use of treated effluence and sewage sludge research (\$310,000 - Israel, Egypt and PA)
- Crop intensification research (\$512,000 - Israel, Egypt and PA)
- Agricultural marketing research (\$200,000 - PA)
- Dairy farm and processing unit (\$9m. - private sector)
- Institutional strengthening and training in tourism (\$450,000 - Israel, Egypt and PA)
- Tourism planning studies (\$285,000 - no sources cited).

These projects were chosen out of a list of 42, according to the Foreign Ministry, because they promote regional cooperation, require relatively small investment, can be implemented in the short term, can provide visible results, are environmentally friendly and can incorporate the private sector. Details of this and other regional projects were published ahead of next week's Middle East-North Africa economic conference in the Qatari capital Doha.

BancAmerica to expand here

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN
BancAmerica Robertson Stephens (BARS) intends to expand its local operation by "applying more resources, hiring more people and expanding its range of services," Michael McCaffery, CEO of the company's investment banking division, said yesterday. McCaffery is currently here for the third annual Growth & Technology Conference sponsored by BARS and its local affiliate, Evergreen Capital Markets. BARS's plans to increase its presence in the local market reflect the more aggressive international approach the company has adopted since BancAmerica, the US's third largest financial institution, took over the San Francisco-based investment banking and investment management firm in October. "You will see more activity from us worldwide," McCaffery said. While the company is embarking on a global expansion project, McCaffery said that BARS, which has \$68 billion in assets, will pay special attention to

Israel because of its strong technology and biotechnology sectors. "We believed this was a market that would play to our strengths [and our experience] has confirmed our opinion," said McCaffery, adding that the company has and will continue to also invest in Israel's non-technology markets. So far this year, Robertson Stephens has done about \$550 million worth of business here. Last year the local market generated \$250m. in business for the company. In 1995, Robertson Stephens teamed up with Tel Aviv's Evergreen Capital Markets. Together the companies manage the Periscope venture capital fund, a \$38m. fund launched this summer. Evergreen has another five funds, including IJT Technologies - a \$28m. fund established with Japanese and Taiwanese partners. Most recently, Robertson Stephens underwrote ZAG Industries and Galleq Technology's initial public offerings on the Nasdaq Stock Exchange. The companies raised \$27m. and \$51m. retrospectively.

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Going for brokers

Following the Dow's recent plunge, investors are expected to sue the brokers who fueled the 1990s runaway bull market

By SUSAN ANTILLA

NEW YORK - The Dow Jones' little 554-plunge last month that we're not calling a crash may not mean the end of the roaring 1990s as we know them.

But it probably is the end of Easy Street for some stockbrokers who were less than honest with their customers. Because even the customer who thinks circuit breakers have something to do with the electrical system has the brains to know this: one-day's 7.2 percent decline is sufficient reason to dust off the unread account statements. Once he does, he may find everything from unauthorized trades to surprise margin loans to buy the unwanted shares.

Runaway bull markets like the one that's graced most of the 1990s mask all sorts of incompetence and mischief by stock brokers, say lawyers who represent both investors and the firms they sue. Get a day like Oct. 27, though, and the investor who was asleep at the switch can suddenly come alive.

"Now people will start paying more attention," says Jonathan Kord Lagemann, a New York lawyer who helps investors sue their brokers.

Adds Linda Fienberg, executive vice president of adjudication at the National Association of Securities Dealers Regulation Inc.: "I do think the increased volatility we've seen over the last month or so will result in an increase in claims."

How big an increase? Morgan Bentley, an investors' attorney who was in-house counsel at now-defunct Thomson McKinnon Securities when the stock market crashed in 1987, says his former employer's arbitration docket doubled after the Dow's famous 508-point one-day rout.

First, Thomson itself was "quick to go out and make claims against customers" who owed money in their margin accounts, suing them within two weeks of the crash. Bentley says. Customers' complaints against the firm took



slightly longer, beginning to trickle in a month or so later, he adds. Crash and correction-related complaints can stretch out over a long period of time, though. The plunge of late October may have planted the seeds of cases that won't be seen for years, says Tom Grady, a Naples, Florida, plaintiffs' lawyer. "Some people in the 1987 crash had brokers who kept saying 'We will work this out. It's a temporary thing,'" Grady explains. "There are investors who go on for years believing that," before concluding their broker has sold them a bill of goods, and suing. That's the sort of tale lots of investors heard after the 1987 crash, when they inquired about

their investments in limited partnership investments, says John Lawrence Allen, a Carlsbad, Calif. plaintiffs' lawyer. "Their partnerships might already have been down 30 percent going into the crash," he says, explaining that these victims of fraudulent sales practices would have been in deep water, market fall or not. "But they didn't look at their statements until after." Having already hoodwinked investors into investments from real-estate partnerships to micro-cap stocks that were in many cases inappropriate, why not further fool them into believing that they would make up their losses, as stocks recovered, Allen says. Allan Fedor, a Largo, Florida,

investors' lawyer, says he had a 1987 crash case in which the customer had no idea that one of his three accounts had been put on margin - borrowed money on which he was leveraging new investments and paying interest. (The cautious customer had set up three accounts in order to be clear which investment strategy was to be used with which chunk of money.) "The broker borrowed against the guy's Treasuries account and used the money to buy stocks in the growth stock account," says Fedor. "Some of these people get whacked because they see something about margin or interest in their monthly statement, but they're clueless as to what it means."

Lawyers say that even before the recent volatility, they already were busy filing old-fashioned churning cases against brokers alleging they were executing rapid trades simply to drum up commissions. And those are likely to multiply now that investors have reason to be more vigilant. "Customers are getting statements that say they're up 12 to 15%, which historically is a good return, but the market in the same period was up 35%," says Grady. The difference between the customer's gains and that of the market average amounts to trading costs that line the broker's pocket, Grady adds. "In markets like this, it's covered up."

Another trick that will increasingly come to investors' attention as they more carefully scrutinize account statements: the so-called "safe" investment in mutual funds which was meant as a substitute for a certificate of deposit. Fedor had a case where a 91-year-old client was persuaded to abandon her CDs for funds, thinking she could get the same income with the same safety. She found out the hard way that the monthly checks weren't just income: she'd eaten into her principal at an alarming rate. Lagemann says to also expect lots more accusations of unauthorized trades - something brokers get away with when times are good and they can persuade cus-

tomers to stick with a "mistake" because it's made them money. "In good markets, brokers talk you into it, saying you are up anyway so do me a favor and keep the stock." Unauthorized trade cases can get tricky, says Howard Elisofon, a New York lawyer who represents brokers and brokerage firms. The most common unauthorized trade complaint is the one where a customer gives "limited discretion" to a broker. Such murky permission leads to difficult squabbles in which the investor might not deny that he expressed interest in a stock, but is adamant that he wanted to buy 5,000 shares - not 50,000. Old-fashioned unauthorized trade complaints are no doubt already being drafted, says Bentley, but you can also expect to see new problems with new players. "There are a lot of new brokers out there," he says, predicting two new brands of cases against "so-called discount brokers who are now giving a little advice," and stockbrokers who sell their wares at banks, where customers may not have been clear that FDIC insurance in operation elsewhere in the building did not apply to their mutual funds. Brokers have lots of incentive to pull a few fast ones, says Lagemann, particularly in view of the fancy lifestyles that have come with 1990s bidding wars for big producers. Lagemann recently negotiated a new job for a broker who, as part of his package, got an upfront loan equal to 60% of his last year's compensation - "an amount of money I'd like to earn in the next three years," as Lagemann puts it. Brokerage firms don't make those kinds of loans unless they expect "the production to back it up," says Lagemann. The lawyer emphasizes, of course, that his broker/client is an honest fellow. But, in a world where lots of big gun brokers are working off the large loans used to woo them, "the incentive to churn is strong," Lagemann adds. (Bloomberg)

- 11.11** The Israel Economic Chamber of Commerce and Industry is hosting Frank Jehring of the Economic Development Corporation, Mecklenburg, Western-Pomerania, who will speak at the Carillon Hotel, Tel Aviv, about Business and Investment Opportunities and Grants in his Western-Pomerania.
- 11.11** Not everyone is starting a business in Israel, can take time out during the day to assist meetings on local, and tax requirements. With this in mind, the Association of Americans and Canadians in Israel (AACI) Business Forum will present its Guide to Starting a Business in Israel, at 7:30 p.m. at its Jerusalem branch, 6, Mane Street.
- 12.11** Representatives from two Israeli hotels that have joined the Golden Tulip chain will attend the three-day conference in Milan entitled Golden Tulip Worldwide. Dalia Oz and Ella Geten, general manager and marketing manager respectively of the Neve ilan Hotel, and Isaac Flauzer and Gad Sason, general manager and sales manager of the Lavi Hotel, will meet their counterparts from other hotels in the chain in what will be both a familiarization and business conference.
- 13.11** Finance Minister and Shlomo Plotkowski, general manager of the First International Bank, will be the guests of honor at the Annual Meeting of the Association of Public Companies at the Dan Hotel, Tel Aviv. Other participants in the conference will include chairpersons and CEOs of public companies trading in the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange as well as MK Avraham Ravitz, chairman of the Knesset Finance Committee. Included on the agenda is a discussion on how the Israel economy should adapt itself to the globalization of capital markets.
- 13.11** The Management Revolution, a seminar designated for general managers, human resources, marketing and data managers, will be held at the Sheraton Hotel, Tel Aviv. The seminar has been organized by Yahav, a consulting, training and organizational development enterprise.
- 17.11** BBDO Worldwide, in conjunction with the Israel Management Center and the Senior Marketing Executives Club, is hosting a study evening at the Tel Aviv Hilton on Local Reflects in Global: The Media in the New Era. Joining local speakers from a variety of disciplines will be a BBDO delegation, which includes Arnie Selsky, executive vice president of media and programming services; Paul Cornitzer, international media director; Shi Gray, senior vice president director of media research; and Ron Harrison, senior vice president media technology.
- 17.11** A study day on Relations in the Galilee Today has been organized by the Interfaith Coordinating Council in Israel. Participants will leave by bus from Jerusalem and will tour various parts of the Galilee where they will dialogue with educators and spiritual leaders. The cost, including lunch, is NIS 235 per person. Further details are available by phoning (02) 672-6430.
- 19.11** The Fourth Israel Quality Association will take place over a two-day period at the Renaissance Hotel, Jerusalem.
- 26.11** The opening of the annual two-day Conference of the Insurance Agency of the Economic Corporation of the Union of Local Authorities will take place at the Moriah Gardens Hotel in Zichron Ya'akov.
- 4.12** Ongoing controversy over regulations governing pensions has spurred a number of conferences and debates. The Focus Ha'aretz conference on The Battle for the Pension will include both lectures and debates. Speakers will examine pension-related issues such as who gains and who loses by the new arrangements, how workers and managers are affected as individuals, and how the economy is affected as a whole. Participants in the conference, which will be held at the Green House, 24 Wise Street, Tel Aviv, will include insurance experts, Treasury representatives, senior executives from a variety of major industries and representatives of state-owned companies.

'The young person's VW'

Seat dealers have benefitted from recent marketing efforts, and the popularly priced Ibiza automatic should send sales soaring even further



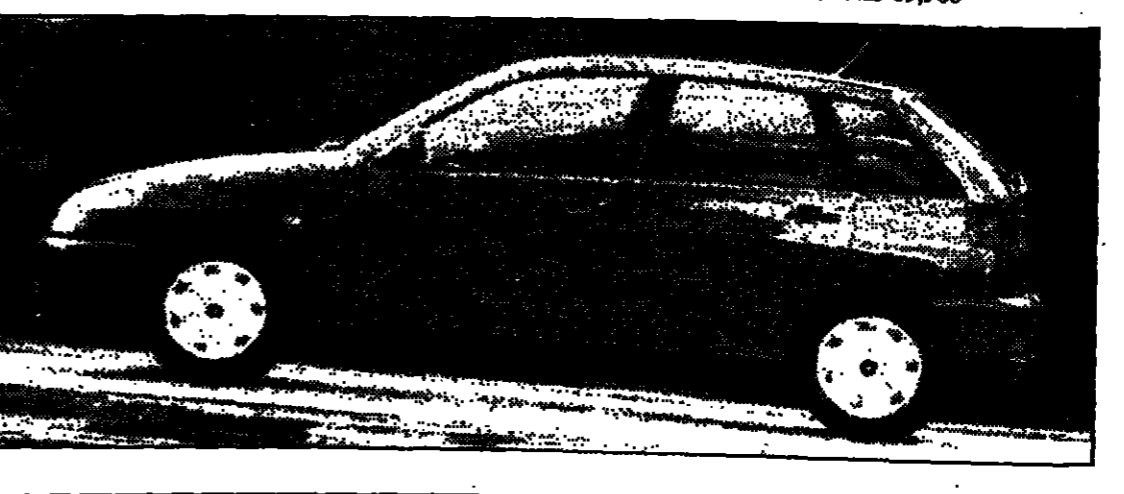
By Joel Gordin

your breath away. It looks like the run-of-the-mill 1990s compact hatchback and will melt into the crowd on our roads. The inside is dominated by the smart, black plastic dashboard topped off by the red-tinted clocks and gauges. The Ibiza does not pretend to be a luxury car and the spartan accessory list should not come as a surprise. The control buttons of the front power windows are situated in a somewhat uncomfortable position and the side mirrors must be adjusted manually (albeit from a lever on the inside). There's central door locking, power steering and an air conditioner, but not much else in the way of luxury toys. The safety accessory list includes two front airbags as standard equipment but the passenger-side airbag is at the expense of a glove compartment. There's nowhere else - save the pockets in the inside of the doors - to stuff small parcels. The fair-sized trunk would hold 270 liters more if the back seats could be folded forward. I found the seats to be firm and comfortable. Four adults don't need to squeeze tight to sit in the vehicle. The engine and the performance of the automatic shift are surprisingly impressive. The engine is flexible and gutsy. The shift is of the "smart" type which adapts itself to the driver. If its computer senses a fast or aggressive driver, it changes the gears accordingly, allowing the rev. counter to hover at around 6,000. This gives a much better sporting performance than one would expect from a

small car with automatic shift that only packs an initial punch of 75 horsepower. For those who prefer more sedate driving, the Ibiza reaches 90 km/h. in a respectable, but not overpowering, 15 seconds and can cruise at that speed in 3,000 revs. It's not the quietest drive, but it's a pleasant roar rather than a whine or a scream. I had no problems with the road performance except for a spongy reaction from the brakes that may have been a defect only in the particular test car that I drove. The Ibiza cannot claim to be the cheapest automatic shift on our market - the Daihatsu Charade, for example, costs just over NIS 68,000. However, what will interest many buyers is how the Ibiza compares with its sister from Volkswagen, the Polo, which is available with automatic shift at a cost of around NIS 77,000. To put

it another way: Is it worth paying an extra NIS 7,000 to buy the Polo instead of the Ibiza? The Polo's immediate advantage is the name tag "Volkswagen" that carries higher prestige than Seat. The Polo is also a more modern, more impressive-looking vehicle. The Seat, nevertheless, is slightly longer than the Polo and most of this length is used to create the Ibiza's larger trunk capacity (270 liters compared to 245 in the Polo). The engines both have the same horsepower rating (75) but the Polo's engine is more flexible (13 at 2,800 r.p.m. compared to the Ibiza's 12.75 at 3,400 r.p.m.). The Polo's engine is also quieter. However, the Ibiza has a more advanced, more driver-friendly automatic shift which gives a sportier performance. The accessory list in both automobiles is spartan, but the Polo has the advantage with an ABS braking system.

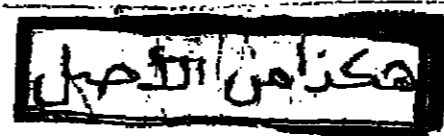
Actually the best option for buyers in this category may be the Seat Cordova, the slightly larger sister of the Ibiza. This car's 1,595cc engine has now also been fitted with automatic shift and it will sell for NIS 73,000. The first shipment of 50 automobiles has just arrived in Israel and, according to Seat spokespeople, most of it has already been sold. SEAT IBIZA 1.6-liter automatic ENGINE: 1,598cc HORSEPOWER: 75 at 5,200 r.p.m. TORQUE: 12.75 at 3,400 r.p.m. GEARS: automatic MAXIMUM SPEED: 166 km/h. ACCELERATION: from 0-100 km/h. in 15.6 secs. GASOLINE CONSUMPTION: 8 km/l. in town; 14.5 km/l. in urban areas. PRICE: NIS 69,900

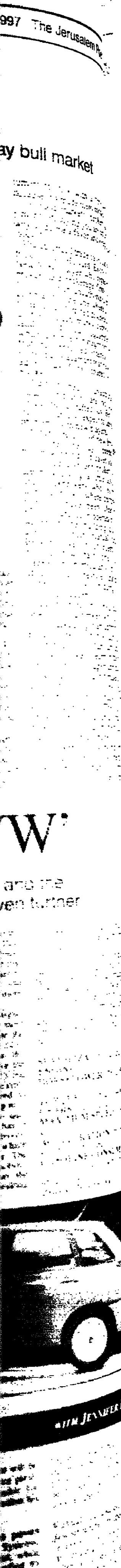


WITH JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

BITS & BYTES
Applied Spectral reaches final for European Information Technology Prize: Applied Spectral of Migdal Ha'emek was one of 25 finalists to make it to the last round of the European Information Technology contest. The European prize is organized jointly by the Esprit program of the European Commission and The European Council of Applied Sciences and Engineering. The 25 finalists have been selected among 319 entries from 26 European countries and from Israel.
Cresco raises \$4.2 million on AIM: Cresco International raised \$4.2m. in an initial public offering conducted on the London Alternative Investment market. Cresco is involved in developing small growing businesses in Israel, several in the high-tech sector. Cresco's initial holdings are expected to generate total turnover for the company of \$8m. in 1997 and \$12.8m. in 1998.
Elsint reorganizes: Elscint Ltd. a subsidiary of Elbit Medical Imaging, announced today that it has reorganized its 17 wholly owned sales and service subsidiaries into three geographic distribution zones and has made additional organizational changes to streamline its structure to increase efficiency and market penetration. Elscint has grouped its 17 wholly owned sales and service subsidiaries into three geographic distribution zones - the Americas, Europe and the "AAA" (Asia Pacific, Australia, Africa, and

the Middle East). Each zone will be managed by a corporate vice president who will be responsible for the day-to-day operations within his territory. Magal security solution passes US tests: Magal Security Systems, Ltd. announced today that, while detailed results are classified by the US Government, the AISYS 370-A Bomb Detection System performed well enough in the recently completed testing at the Federal Aviation Administration's Technical Center in Atlantic City, New Jersey, that the FAA plans to place the AISYS in a US airport for operational testing in a real environment. This is the final step before procurement. A test plan is currently being developed by the FAA and AISYS should be deployed at a major US airport as soon as the plan is finalized. Virtual Jerusalem to anchor Jewish unity on the Web: Virtual Jerusalem of Israel will serve as one of the anchors during a week of cyber-activities for Jews around the world which will kick off February 22, 1998. Jewish Web/Net Week, a consortium of the largest Jewish sites, will feature 613 Jewish Web sites and events from a wide spectrum of ideological and religious perspectives. For more information and to register your site, visit the Web site, <http://www.jvw.org>.





MISHNIM LEADING MARKET ISSUES

Table listing various market issues with columns for 'LAST' and 'CHANGE'.

RETZEF CONTINUOUS TRADING SHARES

Table listing continuous trading shares with columns for 'LAST' and 'CHANGE'.

KARAM SMALL CAPITALIZATION MARKET ISSUES

Table listing small capitalization market issues with columns for 'LAST' and 'CHANGE'.

Main table of market data with columns for 'LAST' and 'CHANGE', listing various stocks and bonds.

Table titled 'ISRAELI SHARES ABROAD' listing international market data.

Table titled 'AMEX' listing data for the American Stock Exchange.

Table titled 'NASDAQ' listing data for the NASDAQ stock exchange.

Table titled 'NYSE' listing data for the New York Stock Exchange.

Table titled 'LONDON' listing data for the London stock market.

Table titled 'INTERNATIONAL SHARES' listing data for international markets.

Table titled 'NEW YORK' listing data for the New York stock market.

Table titled 'LAST CHANGE' listing various market indicators and their changes.

Table titled 'AMEX' listing data for the American Stock Exchange.

Table titled 'NASDAQ' listing data for the NASDAQ stock exchange.

Table titled 'NYSE' listing data for the New York Stock Exchange.

Table titled 'NEW YORK' listing data for the New York stock market.

CRITICS CHOICE

THEATER

HELEN KAYE

Yosef Bar-Yosef's Father of the Groom is a parable. If director Micki Gurevitch had understood that, he could have shaped the characters as the allegories they are, and empty form could have taken on substance.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

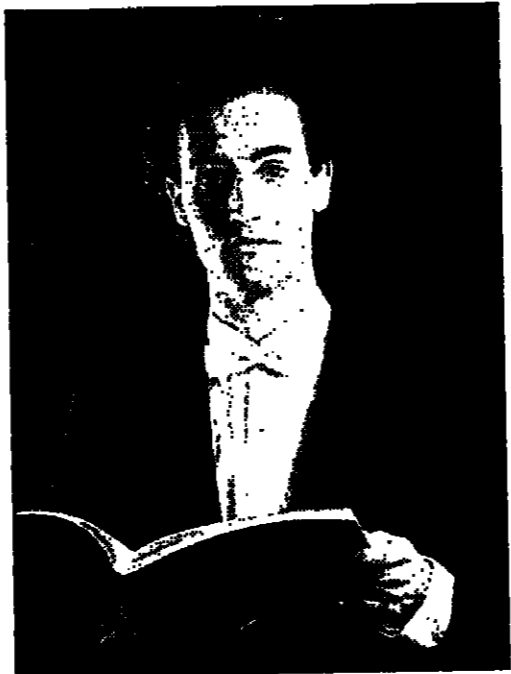
MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

The first concert lecture in Tomer Lev's The Verdier of History series is "The Exquisite Negligibility of Biedermeier: Franz Schubert and the Music of the European Bourgeois."

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

*** MY BEST FRIEND'S WEDDING - Australian director P.J. Hogan's movie stars Julia Roberts as a neurotic New York restaurant critic who realizes she's in love with her closest pal (Dermot Mulroney) the day he announces his engagement to a pliable young millionairess (Cameron Diaz).



Pianist Tomer Lev's concert lecture series begins tonight.

than his share of thin jokes, crude physical gags and overly sentimental moments, the film also manages to win us in surprising ways. Ronald Bass's script has a bitter, heartbroken edge that bumps in interesting ways against its otherwise cheerful tone, and Roberts lends herself gamely not just to adorable dithering but also to exposing Julianne's nasty, desperate side.

TV

CHANNEL 1

- 6:30 News flash
6:31 News in Arabic
6:45 Good Morning Israel

EDUCATIONAL TV

- 8:00 Life on the Screen - computers and the Internet
8:30 Art Workshop
9:00 Science and Nature

CHANNEL 2

- 6:15 Today's Programs
7:00 Cartoons
7:00 Reshet Morning with Ben Kaspi and Shani Dahan

CHANNEL 3

- 11:00 The Little Circle - discussion of new books
12:00 Basic Arabic
13:00 Fudge
13:00 Riding High

CHANNEL 4

- 17:30 New Zehu Zeh
18:00 Almost Perfect
18:30 Cybil
19:00 Squad 132

CHANNEL 5

- 11:00 The Little Circle - discussion of new books
12:00 Basic Arabic
13:00 Fudge
13:00 Riding High

JORDANTV

- 14:00 Holy Koran
14:10 Sandokan
14:30 CPO
15:00 Skippy

MIDDLE EAST TV

- 7:00 TV Shop
14:30 Body Electric
15:00 Basic Training
15:30 The 700 Club

MOVIE CHANNEL (4)

- 11:30 Eminent Domain (1991) - a former senior member of the Polish Politburo - pre-Solidarity era - attempts to discover the reasons for his dismissal.

CABLE

- ITV 3 (83)
Broadcasts will begin after coverage of the Knesset sitting.

ETV 2 (23)

- 15:30 Echo Point
16:00 News Writing
16:30 Directions
17:00 Cultural Cities of China, part 7 (pt)

FAMILY CHANNEL (3)

- 7:00 Good Evening with Guy Pines (pt)
7:30 Love Story with Yitzhak Rabin

EUROPE

- 6:00 Travel Xpress
8:30 The Ticket
7:00 VIP
7:30 NBC News

PRIME TIME TV

Table with 8 columns (1-8) and 8 rows (19:30-23:00) listing TV programs like News flash, News, Beverly Hills 90210, etc.

18:00 Sweet Valley High
18:30 Make Believe Closet
18:30 David the Gnome
18:30 Yitzhak Rabin - 1922-1995

8:00 MSNBC News
8:00 The Today Show
10:00 European Squawk Box
11:00 European Wheel

6:30 Bodies in Motion
16:00 Bodies in Motion
18:30 Women's National League Basketball

6:00 Travel Xpress
8:30 The Ticket
7:00 VIP
7:30 NBC News

6:30 Bodies in Motion
16:00 Bodies in Motion
18:30 Women's National League Basketball

6:00 Travel Xpress
8:30 The Ticket
7:00 VIP
7:30 NBC News

6:00 Travel Xpress
8:30 The Ticket
7:00 VIP
7:30 NBC News

WEATHER map of Israel and surrounding regions with temperature and weather icons.

AROUND THE WORLD table with columns for city, low, high, and weather conditions.

WINNING CARDS advertisement for Home Delivery of THE JERUSALEM POST, including phone number 177-022-2278.

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

Cryptic crossword puzzle with clues for Across and Down.

QUICK CROSSWORD

Quick crossword puzzle with clues for Across and Down.

QUICK CROSSWORD

Quick crossword puzzle with clues for Across and Down.

QUICK CROSSWORD

Quick crossword puzzle with clues for Across and Down.

SOLUTIONS

Solutions for the cryptic crossword puzzle, including words like HARBOR, RECAP, and CONVERT.

QUICK SOLUTION

Quick solutions for the quick crossword puzzle, including words like Arbitrator, Lament, and Excitable.

QUICK SOLUTION

Quick solutions for the quick crossword puzzle, including words like Subordinate, Servant, and Cupid.

MOVIES

MOVIES section listing various film titles, theaters, and showtimes, including Jerusalem Cinematheque and Elit Cinema.

